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NATIONAL VOLUNTARY
Blood Donation Day
— 1st October —

'Donate blood to enable Tamil Nadu achieve 100% target this year'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** for National Voluntary Blood Donation Day *(English Translation)*.

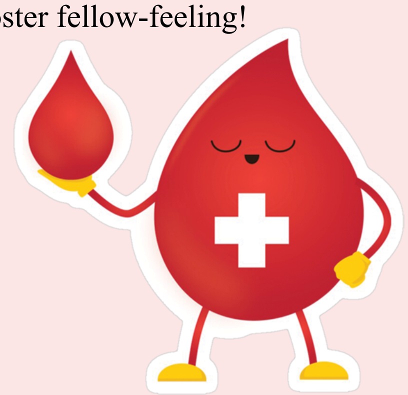
Every year, October 1st is observed as the 'National Voluntary Blood Donation Day' to create awareness on the necessity of blood donation to save precious human lives. This year's theme for the observance of the Day is 'Participation in the fight against Corona through voluntary blood donation'.

To further strengthen the services of Government blood banks, the Government of Tamil Nadu that functions on the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes like creating a Facebook Page to connect the Government blood bank and voluntary blood donors, presenting 10 ultra modern vehicles with airconditioning facilities for safe transport of blood collected in blood donation camps to Government blood banks, distributing to Five Government blood banks, modern automatic testing equipment to test for diseases that spread through blood transfusion, and distributing 107 blood bank cold storage boxes to Government blood banks.

Also, the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society and Tamil Nadu State Blood Transfusion Council are jointly creating awareness in the State about voluntary blood donation. Every year, the best organizers of voluntary blood donation camps and best employees of Government blood banks are honoured on behalf of the Government by the District Collectors with medals and certificates of appreciation.

During this COVID-19 period, 1,77,500 units of blood were collected from Regular Voluntary Blood Donors, Red Ribbon Club and National Service Schemes and COVID-19, and 1,74,000 units were distributed at no cost to patients needing blood. Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in collecting blood through voluntary donors. I affectionately request all people to come forward with enthusiasm to donate blood to enable Tamil Nadu to achieve the 100 per cent target in the current year.

Let us donate blood!
Let us foster fellow-feeling!



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"My Government aims to transform our State as the "Innovation Hub and Knowledge Capital" of the country through creation of world class institutions in various fields and by utilizing the human talent available in the State".

- Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** flagged off 7 Amma Mobile Fair Price shop vehicles to mark the launch of the mobile service for 3,501 Fair Price shops to distribute essential commodities to family card holders near their residence itself, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 21.09.2020.

State maintains its place as top investment destination

Tamil Nadu signs 14 MoUs with companies for Rs.10,055 Crore investment

On behalf of the Department of Industries, an event was held at the Secretariat, Chennai on 12.10.2020 for the signing of Memoranda of Understanding by 14 Industrial Enterprises in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** for starting their new projects in the Districts of Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Tenkasi, Ramanathapuram, Thiruppur, Thiruvallur and Krishnagiri at an investment of Rs. 10,055 Crore. Through these projects, job opportunities will be created for about 7,000 persons.

In these critical times when the world economy, greatly affected by the Corona virus pandemic, is gradually recovering the Industries Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, on the excellent guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, is taking many steps to improve the State's industrial growth steadfastly and to retain its premier position in the industrial sector.

As a result of the measures taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu has become the number one State at the National level in attracting maximum investments in the

first six months of this financial year – April to September. Till September 2020, 42 MoUs for a total investment of Rs.31,464 Crore have been signed.

In continuation of this, MoUs for starting 14 new industrial projects in Tamil Nadu were signed on 12.10.2020 in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

In view of the prevailing situation, MoUs were signed through video conferencing for Four of the 14 projects and directly for the remaining 10.

Details of the MoUs which were signed through video conferencing:

1. An MoU for setting up Renewable Energy Plants by the JSW Energy Ltd., in the Districts of Thoothukudi, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Thiruppur at an investment of Rs.6,300 Crore and to provide employment opportunities to about 2,420 persons.

2. Another one for setting up an Information Data Centre near Chennai by the Mantra Data Centers of Spain, at an investment of Rs.750 Crore and to provide job opportunities for about 550 persons.

3. An MoU with Aosheng Hi-tech Ltd., for the company to set up a production unit for carbon fibre sheets at an investment of Rs.200 Crore with job opportunities for about 250 persons.

4. An MoU with Vans Chemistry company of Singapore for the company to create a facility for electronic waste management and recycling and a project for purifying valuable metals at an investment of Rs.50 Crore and to provide jobs to about 750 persons.

Details of MoUs signed directly

5. With Apollo Tyres to expand its tyre production at the SIPCOT Industrial Park Oragadam, Kancheepuram District at an investment of Rs.505 Crore and to provide job opportunities to 300 persons.

6. With GreenBase Industrial Parks Private Ltd., of the Hiranandani Group to set up an Industrial Logistics Park at Oragadam, Kancheepuram District at an investment

of Rs.750 Crore with job opportunities for about 500 persons.

7. An MoU with the TPI Composites Inc., USA for expansion of the Wind Blades Production Process at an investment of Rs.300 Crore at Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram District and job possibilities for about 1,000 persons. This company had entered into an MoU at the Global Investors Meet held at Chennai in January 2019 for a project for production of wind blades and now is going in for expansion.

8. With Li Energy Private Ltd., for a project for production of EV battery packs for electric vehicles with an investment of Rs.300 Crore and job opportunities for about 325 persons.

9. With LS Automotive India Pvt. Ltd., of South Korea for a project for production of switches for motor vehicles at Thiruvallur District at an investment of Rs.250 Crore and job potential for about 200 persons.

10. An MoU with the Britannia Industries Ltd., for the expansion of its Biscuits production unit at SIPCOT Industrial Park at Gangaikondan, Tirunelveli District at an investment of Rs.250 Crore and jobs for about 150 persons. At the Global Investors Meet held at Chennai in January 2019, this company had signed an MoU for a project for production of biscuits and now it has signed for its expansion.

11. With Inox Air Products company for a project for production of Liquid Oxygen at Hosur, Krishnagiri District at an investment of Rs.150 Crore and job opportunities for about 105 persons. This company plays an important role in the supply of oxygen needed for COVID-19 treatment to hospitals in Tamil Nadu.

12. With Hyundai Wia company of South Korea for a project for production of motor vehicle spare parts at Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram District at an investment of Rs.109 Crore and job opportunities for about 50 persons.

13. With Grinntech Motors and Services Pvt. Ltd., for a project for production of Battery and BMS at Ambattur, Chennai at an investment of Rs.90 Crore and employment opportunities for about 250 persons.

14. With Counter Measures Technologies Pvt. Ltd., for a project for production of small arms and explosives at Thiruvallur District with an investment of Rs.51 Crore and jobs for about 150 persons. This project is to come up in the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor.

LIBERTY

The cause of liberty becomes a mockery if the price to be paid is the wholesale destruction of those who are to enjoy liberty.

- Mahatma Gandhi

5,37,315 family card holders in 37 Districts to benefit

Hon'ble Chief Minister extends Amma mobile services to 3,501 Fair Price shops

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** flagged off at the Secretariat, Chennai on 21.09.2020, seven Amma Mobile Fair Price Shop vehicles to mark the launch of the services for 3,501 such shops, to enable family card holders collect essential commodities distributed through fair price shops near their residence itself. This will cost the Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department Rs.9.66 Crore. Also, by way of inaugurating the distribution of fortified, nutritious rice in the public distribution system in Tiruchirapalli District as a pilot project, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over fortified rice bags to six family card holders.

The scheme to distribute essential commodities through Mobile Fair Price Shops in Chennai was inaugurated by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 24.02.2014. At present, essential articles are distributed to people in areas not easily accessible and in hilly regions through 48 Mobile Fair Price Shops at their places of residence. This scheme has been benefiting people in 277 Villages and 27,420 family card holders residing in 54 streets in Chennai. Hill Villages in the Districts of Thiruppur, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Namakkal, Salem, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram and the Nilgiris have been benefiting from the scheme.

By way of extending this scheme further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister stated in an announcement, made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 20.03.2020 under Rule 110: "Taking into account the demands

received from different sections of people, 3,501 Amma Mobile Fair Price Shops will be commissioned at a cost of Rs.9.66 Crore so that essential commodities can be distributed near the places of residence of people".

In accordance with this announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off 7 Amma Mobile Fair Price Shop vehicles as a token of inaugurating the services for 3,501 Amma Mobile Fair Price Shops benefiting 5,37,315 family card holders in 37 Districts. Through these mobile shops, sales personnel of the parent shops will distribute essential commodities at Government fixed places, convenient to people, once in a month.

Fortified rice is highly nutritious with ingredients like iron, folic acid and vitamin B12 micro nutrients. This improves the health of all – women, children and the aged – and helps in removing anaemia.

Under this scheme, fortified nutritious rice is to be distributed in all fair price shops in Tiruchirapalli District to all family card holders from 01.10.2020; 14,500 metric tonnes through the public distribution system and 500 metric tonnes through the Integrated Child Development Scheme and Nutritious Food Scheme. It will be implemented for 3 years with Central and State Government participation.

MACHINERY

Machinery has its place; it has come to stay. But it must not be allowed to displace necessary human labour.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Hon'ble Chief Minister confident of Tamil Nadu's place as International IT hub, seeks industry's co-operation

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at CII CONNECT 2020 on 19th September 2020.

Vanakkam,

Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management & Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu,

Mr.Hari Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu,

Dr. S Chandrakumar, Vice-chairman, CII Tamil Nadu,

Members of CII,

Officers of Government of Tamil Nadu,

Friends from Media,

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a moment of great pleasure for me to address the Valedictory Session of the 19th edition of CII Connect 2020. I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you. I could see the growth and impact, the CII Connect has created over the years, being a platform for policy initiatives of the Government and also establishing various successful organisations and institutions in the field of Information Technology in Tamil Nadu.

Ladies & Gentlemen, we are all aware that the world is going through a severe economic crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic.

My Government is working tirelessly in the fight against COVID-19 which is evident in the number of cases and the falling mortality rate. This was made possible by increasing the number of tests and conducting various awareness campaigns across the State. So far, I have personally travelled and reviewed the action taken in 25 Districts.

We have been gradually opening up the economic activities which will ensure that Tamil Nadu returns to normalcy at the earliest. We have been attracting investments over the years and I would like to mention here that 81 projects, signed during the Global Investors Meet, 2019 have commenced commercial production, while another 191 are under various stages of implementation. Subsequent to the GIM 2019, the State has also attracted 63 projects, including those that have taken shape during my visit to USA and UAE, with an investment of Rs.19,000 Crore, which would create 83,300 jobs. Even during COVID-19 lock down period, we have signed 42 MoUs, involving an investment of Rs.31,464 Crore, with a potential to create 69,712 jobs. The Government headed by me, is implementing various reforms, in the areas of 'Ease of Doing Business', Online Single Window System Clearances etc., which has resulted in the State topping in the good governance index, export preparedness and investment potential index.

In the Information Technology sector, Tamil Nadu has emerged as one of the leading States in certain verticals of the Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology enabled Services (ITeS) sector. Tamil Nadu continues to be a "Destination of Choice" for the IT/ ITeS sector in India. The State has been upgrading its IT-infrastructure in a dynamic manner, so as to facilitate speedy access to information and delivery of various services of the Government of Tamil Nadu to the citizens in a faster and efficient manner.

My Government aims to transform our State as the "Innovation Hub and Knowledge Capital" of the country through creation of world class institutions in various fields and by utilizing the human talent available in the State. To achieve this, the State has been effectively leveraging the IT-skills of its human resources to match the growing demand of the skilled workforce.

Further, to promote IT/ITeS industry in the State and to attract more investments, Eight Special Economic Zones (ELCOSEZs) were established in Chennai & Tier-II cities by ELCOT and Start-up Warehouse was established at Chennai and Coimbatore. A Centre of Excellence in FinTech and Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies (CEET) were also established at Chennai.

To revolutionize the way Government services are offered to citizens, the Knowledge Proof Identity Based Services Delivery Project will be implemented by establishing and leveraging the State Family Data Base (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure. This pioneering initiative will "take Government

to the Citizens", thus eliminating the need for the citizens to request G2C services. The ambitious BharatNet and TamilNet projects will be implemented to connect all 12,524 Village Panchayats of the State with minimum One Gbps high-speed connectivity, which will help to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations.

I am confident that these steps will strengthen Tamil Nadu's position as an International IT hub in the country. In this journey, I look forward to the partnership with CII. It is our endeavour to work with industry in addressing and resolving all the issues impacting the economic and industrial growth of the State.

With these words, I wish the CONNECT 2020 a grand success!

Thank you!

Nandri, Vanakkam.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami** congratulated Thiru. K.T. Loganathan, National Social Service Officer of the Alagappa Chettiar Government College of Engineering and Technology, Karaikudi and Thiru. M.Dharma Sastha, NSS cadet of the Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli when they showed him their NSS awards for 2018-2019, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 05.10.2020.

Best entrepreneurs honoured with awards in Connect 2020 conference

Hon'ble Chief Minister releases 2020 policy on Cyber Security, Blockchain and AI

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020, released the Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy 2020 and Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020, at the CII CONNECT 2020 Conference organized jointly by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held between September 15 to 19, 2020 through video conferencing.

Tamil Nadu occupies the primary position in the country in Information Technology and Information Technology-enabled services. As various Government Departments are providing Government services through internet, it is imperative to protect these services and the Information infrastructure attached to these services from breaches. For this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister released the "Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy 2020", developed by the Information Technology Department. This policy will ensure safety, intervention and protection of IT-enabled Government services.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is also firm on making use of the growing information Technology in the IT-based services to upgrade human resources. As a part of it, the Government, with a view to implementing the State's social and economic welfare schemes through the internet in a transparent manner, decided to make use of Blockchain Technology. To facilitate the use of this technology by various Government of Tamil Nadu Departments, the Hon'ble Chief Minister released the "Tamil Nadu Government's Blockchain Policy 2020".

Similarly, Artificial intelligence, one of the growing technologies, can scan documents

to study future requirements and provide the necessary solutions. At present, artificial intelligence is used world-wide in various fields such as disease diagnosis, finding new medicines, implementation of laws, defence, space, education, management and maintenance of elderly people.

To make use of this technology for serving the people in providing Government services through internet, the Hon'ble Chief Minister released the "Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020". Through this there will be transparent management enabling easy achievement of growth-oriented targets.

After this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister participated through video conferencing in the Connect 2020 Conference and distributed awards to the best entrepreneurs and honoured them.

Entrepreneur of the Year- Thiru.K.L.N. Sai Prashanth, Managing Director of Conzumex Industries (P) Ltd., Chennai; Exemplary Application of Technology Award in Private sector to Thiru. R. Srinivasan, Executive Vice-president and Head, Smart World and Communication Business of Larsen and Toubro Ltd., (Construction Division) Chennai; Exemplary Application of Technology Award in Public sector - Tmt. B. Jothi Nirmalasamy, I.A.S., Inspector General of Registration; Global Influencer of the year - Thiru. Girish Mathrubootham, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Fresh Works, Chennai; Social Entrepreneurship Award - Thiru. Amanullah, Director of Purple Ironing, Coimbatore; Inspirational Role Model Award - Thiru. R. Ramanathan, Chief Executive Officer, Inthree Access Service Pvt. Ltd., Chennai; Covid Champion Award - Thiru. Vijai Shankar Raja, Managing Director, Helyxon, Chennai; Endurance Award - Thiru. C. Suresh, Managing Director of CG-Vak, Coimbatore; and Mentor of the year - Thiru. M.V.Subramanian, Chief Executive Officer of Future Focus Infotech.

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches services of Spain-India venture for managing solid waste in 7 zones of Chennai

To mark the inauguration of a scheme to undertake solid waste management with private participation on performance basis, the first of its kind in the whole country, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** flagged off conservancy vehicles of M/s. Urbaser SA and Sumeet Facilities Ltd., at a function held at Island Grounds, Chennai on 30.09.2020. The private partner will take up conservancy works in Seven zones of Greater Chennai Corporation. The vehicles flagged off were compactors, mechanical sweepers and e-rickshaws.

The Government of Tamil Nadu which functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is engaged in improving the infrastructure of Greater Chennai Corporation, creating hygienic and clean environment by not dumping the entire solid waste collected in Chennai in the dump yards but re-cycling it through modern technology and employing scientific methods and taking up works like solid waste management to avert land and water pollution for protecting the environment.

On an average, 5,000 metric tonnes of garbage are collected in Greater Chennai Corporation per day. By way of executing the solid waste management rules wholly, 19,467 workers collect garbage from house to house and segregate it as bio-degradable

and non bio-degradable. From the wet waste, organic fertilizer and bio-gas are produced. The dry waste is graded for re-use and re-cycling. The remaining garbage is sent to the dump yards at Perungudi and Kodungaiyur.

Steps are being taken to gradually reduce the quantum of garbage dumped in the dump yards of Perungudi and Kodungaiyur, to protect the environment, avert pollution of surface and ground water, create structures for producing organic fertilizer and bio-gas from wastes and fuel from biological waste, set up modern incinerators to burn dry wastes, factories to produce liquid fuel from plastic wastes and re-cycle the wastes in dump yards by segregating them through bio-mining methods.

For more effective implementation of solid waste management in Greater Chennai Corporation, M/s. Urbaser SA and Sumeet Facilities Ltd., a Spain-India joint venture company has been given an 8-year contract for clearing the streets in the different zones, transporting the segregated wastes collected from houses to their respective processing stations and the remnants to the dump-yards. This company has been doing conservancy work in France, Italy, England, Omen, Bahrain, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Peru and in Delhi, our capital.

Work order was issued on 24.12.2019 to M/s. Urbaser SA and Sumeet Facilities Ltd., to take up the conservancy work in the 16,621 streets in 92 wards in the 7 zones of Teynampet, Kodambakkam, Valasaravakkam, Alandur, Adyar, Perungudi and Sholinganallur of Greater Chennai Corporation to benefit a population of 37 lakh. In these 7 zones, cent per cent segregated wastes will be collected from houses within a year. For this, battery operated vehicles will be used instead of the present tri-cycles. Through this, manpower is replaced with environment friendly battery vehicles in these zones. Bills for the contractors will be settled on the basis of performance against 34 indices including

rectification of complaints from public within 6 hours, collection of segregated wastes house-wise, processing minimum guaranteed wastes and transportation.

Third party consultants will be specially appointed to supervise these works and contractors' performance will be scrutinized. The segregated waste will be sent directly to the different diversified waste processing centres – of composting, article recovery, incineration, compressed natural gas, horticulture waste and coconut husk treatment, resource recovery and bio-methane. Also, the removal of garbage from bins and the activities of vehicles will be monitored through a Data Management System.

M/s. Urbaser SA and Sumeet Facilities Ltd., will engage 125 compactors, 38 mechanical sweepers, 3,000 e-rickshaws, 11,000 compactor bins and 10,844 employees to carry out the conservancy work.

News in Picture

116th birth anniversary of 'Tamizhar Thanthai' Si.Pa.Aditanar

In connection with the 116th birth anniversary of 'Tamizhar Thanthai' Si.Pa.Aditanar on 27.09.2020, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Dr.P.Sankar I.A.S. and Thakkaar of Arulmigu Tiruchendur Subramaniaswami Temple and Managing Director of 'Malai Murasu' daily and TV channel Thiru. R.Kannan Adithan paid floral tributes to the portrait placed near his statue at Egmore, Chennai.

Fifty per cent funding from PM Cares sought for RT-PCR tests

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks Rs. 3,000 Crore under Emergency Response Health package

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Video Conference Meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi** on 23.09.2020.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Union Ministers,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers and Officers, Vanakkam.

At the outset, I sincerely thank you for your continuous guidance and support in tackling the Corona pandemic. I also thank you for enacting 3 pro-farmers legislations, which would go a long way in bringing stability to the agriculture sector. Sir, I have so far personally visited and reviewed the performance in 26 Districts which has proved very effective in controlling the pandemic. In these meetings, I have emphasised the importance of focused testing, contact tracing and patient management. Agriculture activities, food processing and other industries are almost back to full operation throughout the State.

I would like to highlight that Tamil Nadu is continuing its strategy of aggressive, targeted testing and is currently conducting the maximum number of RT-PCR tests in the country. From the beginning, we have been using only RT-PCR Test, which is a gold standard test to identify affected persons. Tamil Nadu presently has 176 labs for COVID-19 testing, with 66 Government and 110

private labs, with an average testing capacity of 85,000 RT-PCR tests per day. As on date 66,40,058 samples have been tested for COVID-19, out of which 5,52,674 persons were tested positive and there are only 46,350 active cases in the State currently. These tests cost nearly 6.8 Crore rupees a day. I request Government of India to fund 50% at least of the cost of the RT-PCR tests from the PM – CARES fund as the State is facing financial difficulties for incurring such expenses continuously.

Tamil Nadu provides effective medical treatment, due to which the State has maintained a low death rate, which is now at 1.62%, one of the lowest in the country. As on date, 4,97,377 patients have recovered, which works out to a recovery rate of about 90%, one of the highest in the country. I also wish to state that because of the comprehensive action of my Government, the positivity rate in the State has come down from a high of 10.47% in July to 6.2% currently. As on date, in no District, the positivity rate is above 10%.

The deaths due to COVID-19 have also been reduced from an average of 100 deaths per day to around 70 deaths per day. Moreover, the positive cases per day in Chennai have now been reduced below 1,000 from around 2,300 in the month of June 2020. From the beginning, Tamil Nadu promoted Indian Medicine System to supplement our treatment procedures.

All front-line workers are being given Kabasura Kudineer, Zinc and Multi vitamin tablets. The capacity of COVID-19 Hospitals, COVID-19 Health Centres and COVID-19 Care Centres have been increased to 1,40,091 beds. 6,431 ventilators have been made available, including 630 in the private sector. Sufficient funds for procurement of consumables have been sanctioned from SDRF and State budget. Orders have been placed by the State Government for 5.25 Crore Triple layer face masks, 48.05 lakh N-95 masks, 44.61 lakh PPE kits and 63.25 lakh RT-PCR testing kits.

In order to handle the emergency situation 2,751 Doctors, 6,893 Staff Nurses, 1,058 Lab Technicians, 334 Health Inspectors, 2,751 Multipurpose Health Workers and 2,000 Paramedical Workers have been additionally drafted.

We are continuing intensive door to door survey, all over the State. Around 3,000 Fever Camps are conducted daily. So far 2,88,714 Fever Camps have been conducted and 1.60 Crore people were screened in these camps. This proactive and aggressive approach has resulted in a declining trend of new positive cases all over the State.

In order to strengthen Health Care Services at grassroot, I have announced that 2,000 "mini-clinics" will be established in the State to cater the immediate medical needs of the poorest sections of the society living in the urban and rural areas. These clinics will be provided with a Medical Officer, Staff Nurse and an Assistant. During this pandemic time, this initiative is expected to fill the gap in field level health and consultation services.

I am happy to state that Tamil Nadu is implementing the eSanjeevani OPD Scheme very successfully and ranks first in the country, with more than 1,26,525 consultations till date.

Greater Chennai Corporation has distributed free re-usable masks to 47 lakh slum dwellers. We have placed orders for supply of 4.5 Crore free re-usable masks in other Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats and as on date have supplied 1.95 Crore numbers.

I have announced a special incentive package including capital subsidy, interest subvention etc., to promote manufacturing of COVID-19 related medical equipment and drugs in Tamil Nadu. At present, 50 such companies have started their production. A high level committee headed by Dr. C.Rangarajan, former Governor of RBI, has submitted its recommendations on the economic revival measures in the State and suitable action will be taken on it.

I have conducted meetings with the bankers at Chennai and in the Districts and requested them to sanction maximum loans to the MSME units. Due to this, as on date, we have sanctioned 8,019.51 Crore rupees loans, covering 2,46,125 MSME units, thus becoming the leading State in the country and we would continue our efforts in this direction. The State machinery is also alerted to the ensuing monsoon and we are fully prepared to deal with it.

I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER FOR KIND CONSIDERATION:

We have received 511.64 Crore rupees from Government of India in two tranches under the Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness package out of an envelope of 712.64 Crore rupees allotted to Tamil Nadu. I request this package for Tamil Nadu may be stepped up to 3,000 Crore rupees as per my earlier request. This will help us to further strengthen our health infrastructure.

As we have fully exhausted the State Disaster Response and State Disaster Mitigation Fund, I also request an ad-hoc grant of 1,000 Crore rupees from NDRF immediately to fight the pandemic.

Releasing pending CMR subsidy of Rs.1,321 Crore at this time, will facilitate paddy procurement.

I wish to state that the Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed a bill to provide 7.5% internal reservation to the UG medical courses for the NEET qualified students who have studied in State Government schools from this academic year based on the recommendations of the Commission headed by a retired Judge of the High Court. Now, the Bill has been sent for the assent of the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu. This is expected to bring equity and social justice to students who are mostly poor.

Nandri, Vanakkam. ■

Centre urged to include Tamil knowledge in criteria for PG course in Archaeology

Text of the D.O. letter dated 08.10.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi.**

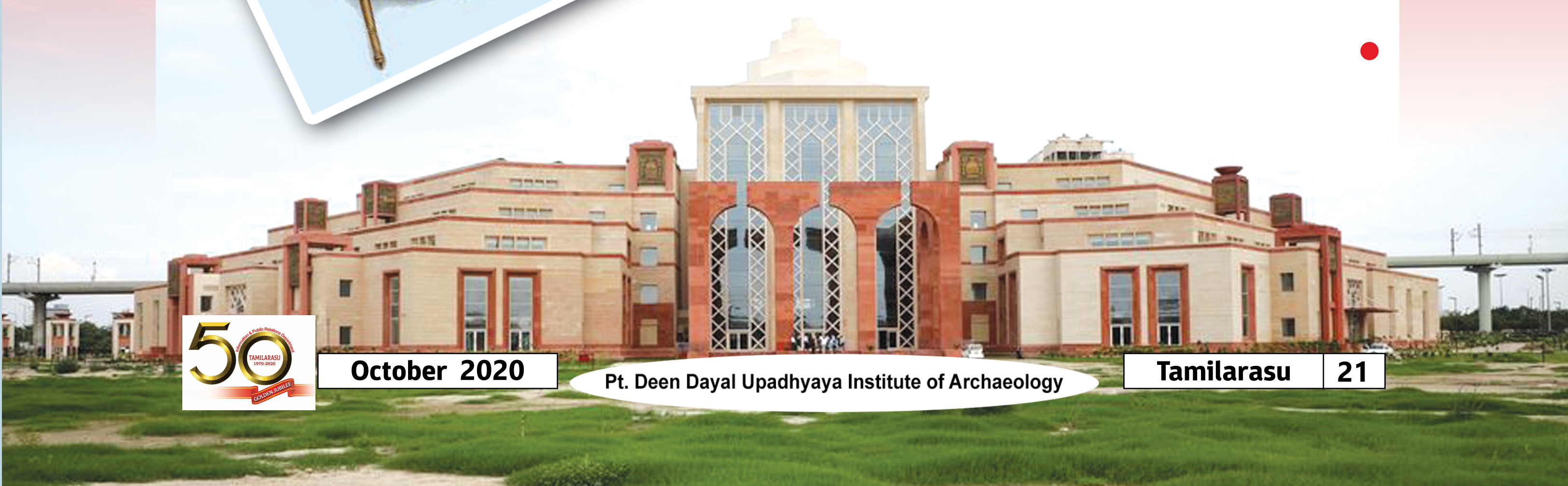
"I would like to bring to your kind attention that Archaeological Survey of India, under Ministry of Culture, has recently brought out an advertisement for admission to the two-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology course for the session 2020-2022 in Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology. While it is a laudable initiative to create a suitable talent pool in a consistent manner which will unravel our glorious past in a professional way, some of the guidelines serve as entry barriers for the aspirants across the country especially for people from Tamil Nadu.

I would like to point out that the said advertisement has prescribed the minimum qualification criteria as Master's degree in, among other relevant subjects, Indian Classical Languages such as Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic or Persian. Unfortunately, among the listed languages, only Sanskrit has been declared as a classical language in 2005. Further more, Tamil, which was the first language in India officially recognized as a classical language in 2004, has been completely ignored.

In this regard, I gather that there are about 48,000 inscriptions in all the languages that have been published so far by various agencies in India, including the Archaeological Survey of India, of which more than 28,000 inscriptions (which is over half) are in Tamil language alone.

Keeping in view the above facts and in order to make the admission process more inclusive, I strongly urge you to direct the Archaeological Survey of India to suitably amend its guidelines and advertisement to also include the Master's degree in Tamil language as one of the minimum qualifications for admission to the Postgraduate Diploma in Archaeology at the above Institute.

Your early intervention in this regard will be much appreciated."



Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates "ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD" Scheme

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 01.10.2020, inaugurated the 'One Nation One Ration Card' Scheme, under the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System, on behalf of the Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department. On the occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over essential articles to three cardholders under the scheme.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma computerized the Public Distribution System in the State at a cost of Rs.330 Crore. In continuation of this, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.EdappadiK.Palaniswami inaugurated the introduction of the Aadhaar-linked Smart Cards replacing the old ration cards at a function on April 1, 2017. At present, all ration shops in the State are distributing essential articles through these Aadhaar-linked Smart Ration Cards.

The distribution of essential articles through ration shops has been upgraded in the State so that all ration cardholders residing in

any part of the State can get their rations in any of the ration shops in the State preferred by them.

The State Government has taken the necessary steps to introduce 'One Nation One Ration Card' Scheme in the State so that the ration cardholders who migrate from one State to another State may get their entitled rations as per the National Food Security Act 2013 under the Integrated Management of the Public Distribution System, in any of the ration shops .

For the implementation of the above system in the State, the existing sales machines in the ration shops are getting updated.

Following this, Hon'ble Chief Minister on October 1, 2020 inaugurated 'One Nation One Ration Card' Scheme in Tamil Nadu to enable ration cardholders at the National level to get their entitlements under the National Food Security Act in any of the ration shops in the State with their existing ration cards when they migrate from their home State to Tamil Nadu.

This scheme has been introduced in 32 Districts, including Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Thiruvallur from 01.10.2020 and in 6 Districts Thoothukudi,Thanjavur, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Tiruvannamalai from 16.10.2020.

Under this scheme, families having Priority Household (PHH) Ration Cards and Antydaya Anna Yojana (PHH-AAY) Cards in Tamil Nadu while migrating to other States can receive their monthly entitlements in the State of migration through biometric authentication under the National Food Security Act, 2013. Those who migrate to Tamil Nadu from other States can get their entitlements at Central Issue Price at the nearest ration shops from their homes through biometric authentication. Through the scheme, workers who have migrated can get their ration articles without any difficulty.

For cardholders who could not be identified through biometric authentication because of technical reasons, provision has been made for their use of one-time password received through their Smart Cards and Aadhaar-linked cell phones or by scanning the existing family ration cards.

Elderly people and those who are sick and cannot be present physically, can get their entitlements from persons authenticated by them.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens buildings for Higher Education constructed at a cost of Rs.58.21 Crore

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 05.10.2020, on behalf of the Higher Education Department, laid the foundation stone for the Postgraduate and Research Department for the newly started Computer Engineering, Physics, and Commerce courses, hostel buildings for men and women students and quarters for the Vice-Chancellor, all to be constructed at a cost of Rs.25.26 Crore for the Thiruvalluvar University in Katpadi Division in Vellore District, through video conferencing. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated new buildings and hostel for men and women students for various Government Arts and Science Colleges, Government Engineering Colleges and Polytechnic Colleges in Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Nagapattinam, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Tirupathur Districts and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University colleges, at a total cost of Rs.58.21 Crore.

With a view to upgrade Tamil Nadu as the premier State in intellectual and Technical Education and to enable rural students get higher education and reach higher status in their lives, the Government of Tamil Nadu, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been opening new colleges, University Constituent Colleges and polytechnic colleges in rural areas. In the last Nine years, the State Government has opened 66 Government Arts and Science Colleges/ University Constituent Arts and Science Colleges, Four Government Engineering Colleges and 19 Polytechnic Colleges in the State to enable rural students to have access to higher education. Through this, the percentage of enrolment of students in higher education in the State has increased to 49 per cent, the highest in the country.

As a part of this trajectory, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

laid the foundation stone for new buildings for Postgraduate and Research courses in Computer Science, Physics and Commerce disciplines through video conferencing from the Secretariat, Chennai. These new buildings are to be constructed at a total cost of Rs.25.26 Crore.

Hostel buildings for boys for the Government College of Techology, Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.6.35 Crore;

Six additional classrooms, three laboratory buildings and toilets, at a cost of Rs. 2.97 Crore at Periyar Constituent Arts and Science College, at Edappadi in Salem District; welding hall for Postgraduate courses, additional classrooms, employees room, examination hall, seminar hall and toilets in the Metallurgy Department of the Government College of Engineering, Salem, built at a cost of Rs.5.30 Crore and 13 additional classrooms, Three laboratory buildings and seminar hall, all built at a cost of Rs. 3.36 Crore for the Salem Government Arts College for Men.

Eight additional classrooms, seminar room and conference room, built at a cost of Rs.3.91 Crore for the Government Polytechnic College, Thuvakudi, Tiruchirapalli District;

Five additional classrooms, built at a cost of Rs. 70 lakh for the Dharmapuram Gnanambigai Government Arts and Science College for women, Mayiladuthurai in Nagapattinam District;

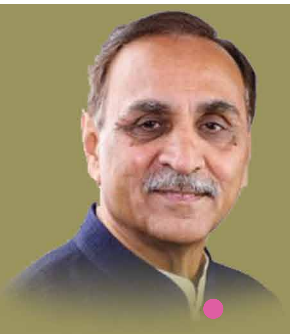
16 additional classrooms, employees room, toilets and other buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.3.10 Crore for the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University College at Sankarankovil; Hostel buildings for Men, built at a cost of Rs.5.65 Crore for the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli; 16 additional classrooms, employees room, toilets, and other buildings, built at a cost of Rs. 3.10 Crore for Manonmaniam Sundaranar University College, Tisaiyanvilai; 16 additional classrooms, employees room, toilets and other classrooms, constructed at a cost of Rs.3.10 Crore for Manonmaniam Sundaranar University College, Panakudi - all in Tirunelveli District;

An auditorium with a capacity of 600 seats, built at a cost of Rs. One Crore for the Arignar Anna Government Arts and Science College, Cheyyaru in Tiruvannamalai District; Vellore District - Administrative and Education oriented buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.7.98 Crore for Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. Government Arts College, Madhanur; Five additional classrooms in Government Thirumagal Mills College, Gudiyattam, built at a cost of Rs. One Crore; and

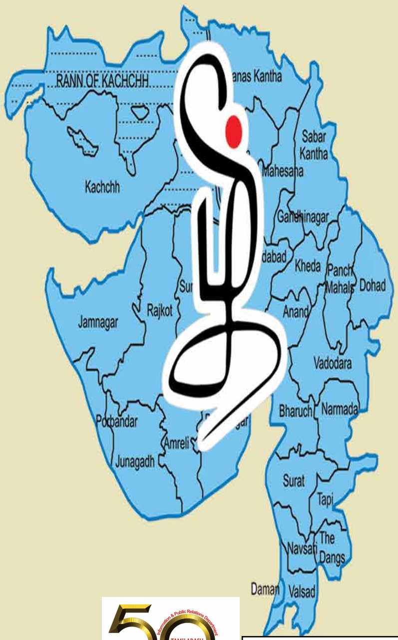
Tirupathur District – Administrative Building, hostel building for boys, compound wall and other buildings for Government Polytechnic, Agraharam in Jolarpet Division, built at a cost of Rs. 10.69 Crore.

Totally buildings for Higher Education all constructed at a total cost of Rs. 58.21 Crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil medium school in Ahmedabad 'should continue to function'



Text of the D.O. letter dated 24.09.2020 of
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**
addressed to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat **Thiru. Vijay Rupani**.



I am distressed to know that the school, which had been imparting education in Tamil medium to mainly migrant labourers, at Ahmedabad in Gujarat has been closed suddenly, citing low attendance. These Tamil children are now left without any choice to continue their education.

Tamil is an ancient language with rich history and culture. Tamils have contributed and are contributing towards the development of Gujarat. The future of Tamil linguistic minority in Gujarat needs to be protected.

Hence, I request you to intervene in this matter and pass suitable orders for the continuance of the Tamil medium school. Government of Tamil Nadu is willing to undertake the entire expenditure for the continuance of this Tamil medium school at Ahmedabad.

I hope the Government of Gujarat will protect the rights to education of Tamil linguistic minorities. I would appreciate early action in this regard.

'Augmented' effort to market products of Tamil Nadu artisans

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches Poompuhar's Virtual Reality showroom

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat, Chennai on 05.10.2020, inaugurated on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., the Poompuhar Virtual Reality Showroom and Augmented Reality mobile application, created at a cost of Rs.1.88 Crore under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII).

The Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, popularly known as 'Poompuhar', is a public sector unit and is marketing handicrafts from 1973. The Corporation aims at marketing Tamil Nadu artisans' unique handicraft products made of brass, panchaloha, wood and stone through exacting effort, providing training to improve the efficiency of artisans as well as improving their production skills, improving the quality of the handicrafts, encouraging innovation in design and providing socio-economic protection to the artisans.

Through this Virtual Reality showroom, from any place customers can have a three dimensional view of the handicraft products. Without having to move the products to exhibitions held outside the State and in foreign countries, through the Virtual Reality showroom 3-dimensional view can be presented to customers, who can then purchase the product of their choice online.

By installing this virtual reality technology at crowded places like airports and commercial complexes, these handicrafts can be marketed easily. The augmented reality mobile app, a novel initiative of the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., to market Tamil Nadu handicraft products nationally and globally, is designed to highlight the aesthetic value of the products by displaying them in three dimension at office, home and other needed places. Through this, purchase orders can be obtained from customers through the mobile phone itself. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks 10,000 seats under 'India BPO Promotion Scheme'

Text of the D.O. letter dated 18.09.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** addressed to Hon'ble Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Communications and Law & Justice, Government of India **Thiru. Ravi Shankar Prasad.**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for launching "India BPO Promotion Scheme" to incentivize Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) industry for setting up their operations in Tier – II and Tier – III cities across the Country for employment generation. This scheme has provided Viability Gap Funding for setting up 48,300 seats with a total outlay of Rs.493 Crore across the Country.

I am very glad to know that the scheme is very successful in the State of Tamil Nadu and has resulted in providing 7,705 seats in Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) - Chennai jurisdiction (which includes 7,605 seats in the State of Tamil Nadu and 100 seats in the Union Territory of Puducherry) to the BPO industry in our Region. This has resulted in creating direct employment for 8,387 people and indirect employment for 16,774 people. The success rate of this scheme in Tamil Nadu in terms of commencement of operation is more than 93%.

This scheme has resulted in setting up of 51 India Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Promotion Scheme (IBPS) units in 13 Tier-II and Tier-III cities of Tamil Nadu. This scheme is in synchronous with the Government of Tamil Nadu vision for creating employment in the rural areas. In view of the tremendous success of this scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu, I request you to allot 10,000 seats under the "India BPO Promotion scheme" to Tamil Nadu. ■

Building opened for Vedasandur Motor Vehicle Inspector's office

Hon'be Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 05.10.2020, declared open on behalf of the Home (Transport) Department, an office building with testing track for drivers, for the Vedasandur Motor Vehicle Inspector Unit office, Dindigul District, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.86 Crore.

For efficient and quick performance of the Transport Department, commensurate with the growing vehicle population and to facilitate the general public to carry out their day-to-day works connected with Transport Department in nearby offices without difficulty, the Government of Tamil Nadu that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is implementing many schemes like creating new unit offices, upgrading unit offices, office into Regional Transport Office and construction of new buildings for Motor Vehicle Inspector office.

In line with this, an announcement was made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during the debate on the demand for grants for Department of Home, Prohibition and Excise for the year 2018-2019, that an own building with many facilities and Driver Testing Track would be constructed for the Motor Vehicle Inspector (unit) office at Vedasandur, Dindigul District in the interest of the general public at a cost of Rs.1.86 Crore. As per that announcement, the new office building was constructed and it was declared open by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates agri godowns, hands over farm equipment

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat, Chennai on 05.10.2020, on behalf of the Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business Department, inaugurated through video conferencing a 2,000 metric tonne capacity storage godown with handling equipment, constructed at a cost of Rs.5.60 Crore at the Madurai Regulated Market Complex in Madurai.

In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated buildings for Agriculture Department, built at a cost of Rs. 47.36 Crore and handed over 23 tractors and 17 Backhoes with front-end loader, procured by the Agricultural Engineering Department for giving these farm machines on less hire charges to farmers.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various schemes to

improve the agriculture sector, reduce the gap between the producer and the consumer, improve agriculture productivity through farm-based approach and take steps to process the agriculture produce after harvest through upgraded infrastructure; thereby ensuring that the agriculturists get remunerative price for their produce.

In this connection, on behalf of the Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business Department, under the e-commerce marketing scheme, to improve the business in Regulated Marketing Committees, in the Madurai Regulated Marketing Committee, a storage godown of 2,000 metric tonne capacity with equipment costing Rs.5.60 Crore was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu from the Secretariat through video conferencing.

Another storage godown of 2,000 metric tonne capacity with equipment, set up at a cost of Rs.4.60 Crore at Villupuram Regulated Market, in Villupuram District;

At Paramathi Velur in Namakkal District, at Tindivanam and Vikravandi in Villupuram District, at Kallakurichi in Kallakurichi District, at Anaimalai in Coimbatore District and at Vellakoil in Thiruppur District, sorting, grading and testing hall, e-auction centre and weigh bridge, costing totally Rs. 16.74 Crore;

Under the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) Scheme, to improve marketing capacity, in Paramakudi Regulated Marketing Committee in Ramanathapuram District, 2 storage godowns of 1,000 metric tonne capacity each, Bidding room and farmers' rest room costing Rs.3.40 Crore; in Udumalpet Regulated Market in Thiruppur District, a 2,000 metric tonne capacity godown, Bidding room and drying yard totally costing Rs.3.15 Crore; in Dindigul Regulated Market in Dindigul District, 2,000 tonne capacity storage godown, Bidding room, drying yard costing Rs.2.85 Crore; in Ammoor Regulated Market in Vellore District, drying yard with machinery costing 1.74 Crore and in Kalavai Regulated Market in Vellore District, a Grading and Assaying Hall and e-Bidding room, costing Rs.76 lakh; and in Cumbum Regulated Market in Theni District, an e-Bidding room and farmers' rest room, set up at a cost of Rs.51 lakh;

In Thiruppur and Pethappampatti Regulated Markets in Thiruppur District and Annur Regulated Market in Coimbatore District e-Bidding room at a cost of Rs.1.92 Crore;

Headquarters building at Thiruppur Regulated Market in Thiruppur District, constructed at a cost Rs.1.30 Crore; new buildings, built at a cost of Rs.3.13 Crore, at Thisayanvilai in Tirunelveli District and an Agmark Research Centre at Virudhunagar Regulated Market in Virudhunagar District at a cost of Rs. 60 lakh;

Three Integrated Agricultural Extension Centres, one each at a total cost of Rs.6 Crore in Aranthangi in Pudukkottai District, in Karimangalam in Dharmapuri District and Sriperumbudur in Kancheepuram District.

Under the Indo-Israeli joint venture, on behalf of the Horticulture and Plantation Crops Department, in the Centre of Excellence for Vegetables in Reddiyarchatram in Dindigul District, a hostel building for approximately 50 girl students with modern facilities at a cost of Rs. 65 lakh.

Totally, buildings for the Agriculture Department at a cost Rs. 52.97 Crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, through video conferencing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 16.07.2019, had announced under Assembly Rule 110 that for the farmers who could not afford to purchase high cost farm machinery, the Government has directed the Agriculture Engineering Department to purchase these farm machinery and give them for hire at a low rate for the benefit of farmers.

Following the announcement, the Agriculture Engineering Department has been purchasing high cost farm machinery and giving them on hire to farmers. As a follow up measure, for the maintenance and deepening of water harvesting structures and also renovating inflow channels, created by the Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency, Rs.87.93 Crore has been sanctioned to the Department for purchase of 50 tractors, four sand removing bulldozers, farm implements for tractors, 10 paddy harvesting machines, two paddy drying machines, one sugarcane harvesting machine, 30 corn harvesters, 32 multigrain threshers, 20 tractor with coconut frond chopper, 17 Backhoes with front-end loader, 10 sand collecting machines like Poclains and 870 new farm implements.

As a follow up measure, the Agriculture Engineering Department procured 23 tractors, and 17 Backhoes with front-end loader at a cost of Rs.4.99 Crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, with a view to giving these farm machinery to agriculturists on a cheaper rent, handed over the keys of the machinery to Five drivers as a token. ■

Rs.13.51 crore building for 100 Police Tenements at Kilpauk in Chennai

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai declared open 100 tenements for Policemen, constructed at a cost of Rs.13.51 Crore at Lutheran Garden in Kilpauk in Chennai District, on behalf of the Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, through video conferencing on 05.10.2020.

On the occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open 43 Police tenements, four Police stations, two Police Department buildings, one house tenement for Fire and Rescue Services Department, two Fire and Rescue Services stations and State Operations Centre and Social Media Centre in the State Police Headquarters DGP complex, Chennai, all built at a cost of Rs.15.40 Crore.

The Police Department is performing various crucial tasks in the State, including taking steps to maintain peace, enforce law and order, prevent crimes, trace criminals and get them proper sentence. For this crucial Department to perform its task in an exemplary manner, Hon'ble Amma's Government, treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various schemes, including construction of new Police stations and Police quarters,

improving the infrastructure in Police stations with additional facilities and sanctioning new vehicles to Police Department for undertaking patrol activities.

In this way, Lutheran Garden, Kilpauk in Chennai District, 100 Police tenements, built at a cost of Rs.13.51 Crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu from the Secretariat. This tenement has ground floor plus 13 floors with lift facilities, fire-fighting equipment, bore wells, drinking water facilities, rain water harvesting facilities and lightning arrester.

In addition, in Perumbakkam in Thiruvallur District, Magudanchavadi in Salem District and Pachal in Tiruvannamalai District, 43 Police tenements, built at a cost of Rs.7.10 Crore;

Two Police Stations, one each in Krishnagiri in Krishnagiri District and Valinokkam in Ramanathapuram District, one All-Women Police Station at Vazhapadi in Salem District and Traffic Police station at Tenkasi in Tenkasi District. Totally, four Police stations at a total cost of Rs.3.12 Crore;

Two Camp Offices for the Deputy Superintendent of Police one each at Attur in Salem District and Jeeyapuram in Tiruchirappalli District, both constructed at a cost of Rs.1.22 Crore;

One tenement for Fire and Rescue Services Department in Nagapattinam in Nagapattinam District, built at a cost of Rs.19 lakh;

Buildings for two Fire and Rescue Services offices, one each at Uppiliapuram in Tiruchirapalli District and Nagapattinam in Nagapattinam District, built at a cost of Rs.2.08 Crore; and State Operations Centre and a Social Media Centre at the DGP Headquarters complex at Mylapore in Chennai District, costing Rs.1.68 Crore from State Disaster Relief Fund.

Totally, tenements for Policemen, Police Stations, Fire and Rescue Services Stations, all constructed at a cost of Rs.28.91 Crore were declared open by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

On the occasion, a cheque for Rs. One Crore from the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation (TNPHC), as Tamil Nadu Government's share of dividend for the year 2019-2020, was handed over by the Chairman and Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation, Thiru. M.N.Manjunatha I.P.S. to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Kattabomman Fort and Manora monument renovated; Dutch cemetery gets facelift

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open at the Secretariat, Chennai on 05.10.2020, three monuments that have been renovated and made secure at a cost of Rs.3.52 Crore. The monuments are the Kattabomman Fort in Panchalankurichi Village, Ottapidaram Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Manora manument at Pattukkottai Taluk in Thanjavur District and the Dutch cemetery at Nagapattinam.

Twelve monuments under the control of the Department of Archaeology have been selected through the Department of Tourism for renovation and installation of security measures at a cost of Rs.24.81 Crore with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

In the first phase, these three monuments were taken up. The Kattabomman fort in Panchalankurichi Village has been given a face-lift at a cost of Rs.92.43 lakh. The remnants of the fort have been repaired with lime mixture, the fort has been secured with iron grille all around, drinking water and toilet facilities for visitors, a room for the security, lawns, electric lights and sign boards have all been provided.

The 75 ft. high, hexagonal Manora monument at Sarabendrarajanpattinam, Pattukkottai Taluk has been renovated at a cost of Rs.2.33 Crore. A stone structure, mounted with grille has been built around the moat; drinking water facility, security room, lawn, electric lights, sign boards and CCTV cameras have been set up.

At the Dutch cemetery in Nagapattinam Taluk, Nagapattinam District, tombs have been repaired, stone structure with grille has been set up round the cemetery and lawn, sign boards and electric lights have been provided at a cost of Rs.25.94 lakh. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Rs. 17.40 Crore check dam across the Vaigai

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020, laid the foundation stone through video conferencing, for a check dam across the River Vaigai, to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 17.40 Crore on behalf of the Water Resources Department functioning under the Public Works Department. The aim is to supply water to Madakulam Lake in Thiruparankundram Division and to rejuvenate the ground water in Ponmeni, Ellis Nagar, Palanganatham, S.S.Colony, Madakulam and T.V.S.Nagar under the Madurai Corporation. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for renovating the First Sub-canal of the Thirumangalam Main Canal and for setting up a walking path along the Sivalaperi Tank in Tenkasi District, at a total cost of Rs. 7.53 Crore.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various Irrigation Development Programmes through the Water Resources Department to meet the drinking water requirements of people, to save the available water by storing it in various water bodies and to find new water resources to develop agriculture which is pivotal for the economic development of the country.

At the District Collectors and Police Officials meet, held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 07.03.2018, announced that a river bed dam would be constructed across the River Vaigai in Madakulam.

In keeping with the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a check dam to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 17.40 Crore across the River Vaigai to supply water to Madakulam Tank and to improve the groundwater levels in Ponmeni, Ellis Nagar, Palanganatham, S.S.Colony, Madakulam and T.V.S.Nagar under Madurai Corporation through video conferencing.

The construction of the check dam, besides ensuring total capacity of 215.89 million cubic feet in Madakulam Tank, Keezhamathur Tank and Thuvariman Tank, will provide irrigation facility to 3,360.13 acres of land and meet the drinking water requirements of various tenements in Madurai Corporation area.

In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for renovating the First Sub-canal of the Thirumangalam Main Canal in Usilampatti Division at a cost of Rs. 6.83 Crore and for a walking path around Sivalaperi Tank in Tenkasi Division in Tenkasi District at a cost of Rs. 70 lakh.

Totally foundation stones for 3 schemes, estimated at Rs. 24.93 Crore, were laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

On behalf of the Public Works Department, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu handed over appointment orders for 7 selected candidates for the posts of Junior Assistants, selected by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 as a token of distributing the Appointment Orders for 148 Assistants.

Local bodies in State win Central awards for best performance

Tamil Nadu bags e-Panchayat Puraskar for ICT use in Panchayat Administration

Tamil Nadu has bagged the e-Panchayat Puraskar Award of the Central Government, capturing the second place at the National level in effectively implementing Information and Communication Technology tools in Panchayat Administration in the year 2018-2019. The award and the citation presented along with it were shown to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020 by the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration & Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P. Velumani and the Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated him.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also congratulated Presidents and Special Officers of local bodies that won various awards under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat

Sashaktikaran Puraskar and Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar for the year 2018-2019, when they showed him the awards presented by the Union Ministry for Panchayati Raj.

By way of encouraging the local bodies that have put in best efforts and performance, the Union Ministry for Panchayati Raj is presenting awards with incentives every year under various heads and honouring them at all the three levels of the set-up – District Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Village Panchayat.

Under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar awards, the best District Panchayat award was given to Dharmapuri District, the best Block Panchayat award to the Panchayat Unions of Konganapuram (Salem District) and Thirumangalam (Madurai District), the best Village Panchayat award to the Panchayats of Andankoil (East) (Karur District), Kurumandur (Erode District), Ambukovil (Pudukkottai District), Nedungal (Krishnagiri District), Ikkarai Boluvampatti (Coimbatore District) and Mevalurkuppam (Kancheepuram District) (Six Village Panchayats).

The Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar Award, given for implementation of socio-economic development schemes for rural people with the strong participation of Gram Sabha, was presented to the Kalavanur Village Panchayat in Thirunavalur Panchayat Union, Kallakurichi District; National Award for Village Panchayat Development Scheme, given for best performance in the preparation of Village Panchayat development scheme efficiently, was presented to T.C. Kandigai Village Panchayat, Tiruttani Union, Thiruvallur District; and the Child-friendly Village Panchayat National Award, given for the best implementation of development schemes catering to the welfare of rural children, was presented to Hanumanthapuram Village Panchayat in Kanai Union, Villupuram District.

Tmt. M. Yasoda, Dharmapuri District Panchayat President, Tmt. J. Latha, Thirumangalam Panchayat Union Chairman, Karattur Thiru. K.K. Mani, Konganapuram Panchayat Union Chairman, Tmt. S. Santhi, Andankovil (East) Village Panchayat President, Tmt.N.C. Devi, Kurumandur Village Panchayat President, Thiru. K. Suman Kalidas, Ambukovil Village Panchayat President, Thiru. P. Maheswaran, Nedungal Village Panchayat President, Thiru. A. Sadanandam, Ekkarai Pozhuvampatti Village Panchayat President, Tmt. P. Pichaiammal, Block Development Officer/Special Officer, Mevalurkuppam Village Panchayat, Thiru. M.Senthilmurugan, Block Development Officer/Special Officer, Kalavanur Village Panchayat and Thiru. P. Manivasagam, Block Development Officer/Special Officer, Hanumanthapuram Village Panchayat who all received the awards showed the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu their awards and received the blessings. ■

Creation of new District - Mayiladuthurai

<u>**ABSTRACT**</u>

Revenue Administration - Jurisdiction - Bifurcation of Nagapattinam District - Creation of Mayiladuthurai new District - Orders - Issued.

Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Revenue Administration Wing, [RA1(1)] Section

G.O.(Ms) No. 183 **Dated: 07.04.2020**

விகாரி, பங்குனி 25,
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு 2051

Read:

Principal Secretary and Commissioner of Revenue Administration Letter No.Ser 3(4)/15000/2020, dated 4.4.2020.

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ORDER:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has made the following announcement on the floor of the Assembly on 24.03.2020 under Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rule No. 110:

"நிர்வாக வசதிக்காகவும், மக்களுக்கு அரசின் திட்டங்கள் விரைந்து சென்றடைய வேண்டும் என்ற நோக்கத்திலும், நாகப்பட்டினம் மாவட்டத்தை இரண்டாகப் பிரித்து, தமிழ்நாட்டின் 38வது மாவட்டமாக மயிலாடுதுறை மாவட்டம் உருவாக்கப்படும்."

2. Based on the above announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister and after carefully examining the proposals received from the Principal Secretary/ Commissioner of Revenue Administration in this regard, formal order is hereby issued for formation of the Mayiladuthurai District with the District Headquarters at Mayiladuthurai by bifurcating the existing Nagapattinam District.

3. The Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Revenue Administration is hereby authorized to take necessary follow up action soon after the completion of **lock-down period and other restrictions pertaining to prevention of Covid -19.**

(By order of the Governor)

K. Shanmugam
Chief Secretary to Government

Age of superannuation increased to 59 years

ABSTRACT

Public services – Age of superannuation of Government servants, Teachers, etc. – Increased to 59 years – Orders – Issued.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS (S) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.51

Dated:07.05.2020
சார்வரி – சித்திரை 24
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு – 2051

Read:

G.O.(Ms)No.532, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Personnel-M) Department, dated 25.04.1979.

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ORDER:

The Government have decided to increase the age of superannuation of Government servants from 58 years to 59 years and orders accordingly. This will apply to all those who are in regular service as on date and due to retire on superannuation from 31.05.2020.

2. This order shall also be applicable to all teaching and non-teaching staff working in aided educational institutions and employees of all Constitutional / Statutory Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings including all State Corporations, Local Bodies, Boards, Commissions, Societies, etc.

3. The relevant provisions under rule 56 of Tamil Nadu Fundamental Rules will be modified to the above extent. Necessary amendment to the above rules will be issued accordingly.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

K. SHANMUGAM,
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

News from Districts

Madurai

Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Thiru. Sellur K. Raju and Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology Thiru.R.B. Udhayakumar distributed retro-fitted scooters to the beneficiaries at the World Tamil Sangam complex, Madurai. District Collector Dr.T.G. Vinay I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Cuddalore

Hon'ble Minister for Co-opertion Thiru. Sellur K. Raju and Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C. Sampath flagged off an Amma Mobile Fair Price Shop at Irandaayiram Vilagam Primary Agriculture Co-opertive Credit Society complex, Kalaiyur, Cuddalore. District Collector Thiru. Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Pudukkottai

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr C. Vijayabaskar flagged off an Amma Mobile Fair Price Shop at Panangudi, Annavasal Panchayat Union, Pudukkottai. District Collector Tmt. P. Uma Maheswari, I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Tiruchirapalli

Hon'ble Minister for Tourism Thiru. Vellamandi N. Natrajan and Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes & Minorities Welfare Tmt.S. Valarmathi flagged off an Amma Mobile Fair Price Shop at the Urban Co-operative Bank, Municipal Corporation, Tiruchirappalli. District Collector Thiru. S. Sivarasu I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Thiruvallur

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin and Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K. Pandiarajan flagged off an Amma Mobile Fair Price Shop at Kothandaramapuram colony, Poonnimangadu Panchayat, Thiruvallur. District Collector Tmt. Mageswari Ravikumar I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Karur

Hon'ble Minister for Transport Thiru.M.R. Vijayabhaskar flagged off an Amma Mobile Fair Price Shop at an event held at the Panchamadevi Primary Agriculture Co-opertive Society, Karur District.

Sivagangai

Hon'ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries Board Thiru. G. Baskaran flagged off an Amma Mobile Fair Price shop at Manamadurai town, Sivagangai. District Collector Thiru. J. Jayakanthan I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Tiruvannamalai

Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Thiru. Sevoor S. Ramachandran flagged off an Amma Mobile Fair Price Shops at Arni, Tiruvannamalai. District Collector Thiru. K.S. Kandasamy I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lists schemes implemented in Ramanathapuram District

Rs.700 crore allotted in the current year for game changing Cauvery-Gundaru link

Excerpts from the Presidential speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and COVID-19 virus activities in Ramanathapuram District, at District Collectorate on 22.09.2020 *(English Translation)*.

In Ramanathapuram District alone, 94 'kudimaramathu' Scheme work worth Rs.48.50 Crore have been executed in the last 3 years. For the year 2020-2021, 44 works costing Rs.31 Crore have been taken up and 70 per cent of the works have been completed. A retaining wall is being constructed at a cost of Rs.11.15 Crore with NABARD assistance at Santhappakone Valasai Village, Mandapam union in Gulf of Mannar coast. Work has been started to restore the R.S. Mangalam big lake in R.S.Mangalam Taluk at a cost of Rs.18.82 Crore. Government is examining a proposal to set up at a cost of Rs.10.50 Crore an additional regulator at

the head sluice across Vaigai River to convey water to Ramanathapuram big lake. Also under the consideration of Government is a proposal to construct a check dam at a cost of Rs.8.50 Crore across Vaigai River at Sevvur Village, Paramakudi Taluk; another check dam across Vaigai River at Choodiyur Village, Paramakudi Taluk at a cost of Rs.8.50 Crore. Many such schemes are under the consideration of Hon'ble Amma's Government. When these schemes are implemented, monsoon rain water will be saved without any wastage and stored at different check dam locations for re-charging the ground water table.

In the interest of the people of this District, Hon'ble Amma's Government is establishing a Government medical college and hospital at an estimate of Rs.345 Crore. This is a historic scheme. With the blessings of Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, works on setting up 11 Government medical college and hospitals with the approval of the Central Government, are going ahead. No State has a history of having got permission at the same time for starting 11 Government medical colleges. Hon'ble Amma's Government has created such a history. A modern hospital will come up in this medical college area. Hon'ble Amma's Government has started a wonderful scheme that will benefit the poor and marginalized people in Ramanathapuram District through quality treatment.

Construction of buildings for the new law college at Kothakottai Village in Keezhakkarai Taluk at a cost of Rs.76.61 Crore is going on. Not only this, we have provided Four Government arts and science colleges to this District. Also, I am proud to say that it is Hon'ble Amma's Government that has upgraded middle-level schools into high schools and high schools into higher secondary schools and thus provided ways and means for the poor to take up higher education.

Work on the construction of an 'Yatri Nivas' at Rameswaram at a cost of Rs.30.96 Crore will be expedited for pilgrims to have accommodation facilities.

In the interest of fishermen, Hon'ble Amma's Government has set up, in deference to the long-standing demand of fishermen, a fishing harbour at Mookaiyur Village, Ramanathapuram at a cost of Rs.128.70 Crore for handling deep sea fishing boats and a Fish Landing Centre at Kunthukal at a cost of Rs.70 Crore and I inaugurated them for public use on 04.03.2019 and 19.09.2020 respectively. Hon'ble Amma's Government has fulfilled the fishermen's request for deep sea fishing boats, subsidized jointly by the Central and State Governments. Thus, out of a price of Rs.80 lakh for a boat, Rs. 56 lakh is given as subsidy, the Centre and the State sharing the subsidy at 50:20 ratio. Fishermen have to meet the balance amount either from their own funds or through bank loans. In Ramanathapuram District, 22 deep sea fishing boats have been built at an estimate of Rs.17.6 Crore and been brought into use. The 70 per cent subsidy for this – Rs.12.35 Crore – has been released. I am happy to state that orders have been issued for the building of boats for 232 more beneficiaries.

It is Hon'ble Amma's Government that has initiated the process of providing higher relief to drought-affected farmers. In Ramanathapuram District alone, a compensation of Rs.1,316. 63 Crore was disbursed to 3,50,220 farmers in the last 4 years under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme. During the severe drought in 2016-2017, an input relief assistance of Rs.146 Crore was given to 1,40,636 farmers in Ramanathapuram District. Infrastructure facilities in the markets at Ramanathapuram,

Rajasingamangalam and Ettivayal are being upgraded at a cost of Rs. 22 Crore. Eight hundred and forty-seven numbers of agriculture equipment have been distributed at a subsidy of Rs.13.16 Crore Under the supply chain management scheme, primary processing centres have been set up at Paramakudi, Mudukulathur and Kamuthi at a cost of Rs.10.58 Crore for farmers producing vegetables and fruits.

Under the Integrated Farming System Project, 205 farmer-producer organizations were set up in the last 3 years, a capital fund of Rs.10.25 Crore was given, helping the purchase of 990 numbers of farm machinery benefiting 20,500 small and micro farmers. For 2020-2021 year also, Rs.2.50 Crore has been allotted for the setting up of 50 farmer-producer organizations. Under the Micro Irrigation Scheme, Micro Irrigation structures have been set up in 7,175 acres at a subsidy of Rs.7.59 Crore in the last 4 years. For the year 2020-2021, Rs.7.94 Crore has been allotted for this scheme. Godowns and office buildings have been constructed at an estimate of Rs.5 Crore in Regulated Markets. Four Integrated Agriculture Extension Centres and 3 subsidiary agriculture extension centres have been constructed at a cost of Rs.6.90 Crore for stocking quality inputs and distribution. Four more Integrated Agriculture Extension Centres are being constructed at a cost of Rs.8 Crore. Solar energy operated pump sets are also distributed to farmers at a subsidized price.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking steps to set up a Food Park in Ramanathapuram District, and Industrial Parks at Vanakudi and Sakkarakottai. Through these ventures, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing its long-cherished scheme of creating industrial establishments in backward areas like Ramanathapuram. The Government continues to give various concessions to industrial entrepreneurs coming forward to start new industries in the Southern Districts, particularly in backward areas. It gives a 50 per cent subsidy towards the cost of the land where the industry is to come up. Besides, all the approvals are given immediately for starting the industries. Hon'ble Amma's Government will give priority in all ways for starting industries in the southern Districts, especially in backward Districts. This will create employment opportunities to educated youth especially when industries come up in Districts like Ramanathapuram.

All steps have been started for the implementation of the historically important Cauvery-Gundaru River link. Through this scheme, one lakh acres of land in Ramanathapuram will get irrigation facility. The surplus water that exits from Mettur Dam and drains in the sea, will be diverted through canals to parched areas to fill up lakes, tanks and ponds for re-charging the ground water table to help farmers get water, even for drinking purposes in summer. The scheme was announced by Hon'ble Amma and Amma's Government is taking steps to implement it at a huge cost.

The Cauvery-Gundaru link will be through a 259 km-long canal. In the first phase, the canal will be dug from Cauvery to South Vellaru (118 km), in the second, from South Vellaru to Vaigai (108 km) and in the third, from Vaigai to Gundaru (33 km).

Government order has been issued to acquire land and the work is in progress through special committees, set up in the Revenue Department. In the current financial year, Rs.700 Crore has been allotted for the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundaru link scheme.

When the second phase is implemented, the entire Ramanathapuram District will benefit. The Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundaru link canal will cross the Vaigai River at Edaikadu Village, Manamadurai Taluk. At this point, it is proposed to divert 1,500 cubic feet of water in Vaigai River. Through this, all the 'kanmais', lakes, tanks, 'ooranis' and ponds in Ramanathapuram District will be filled up. As I have already told, one lakh acres of land will get irrigated. It is estimated that the scheme will cost approximately Rs.14,000 Crore. No scheme has been implemented in Tamil Nadu at this huge cost till now. Hon'ble Amma's Government is the only Government that executes a long'standing demand of farmers at such a huge cost.

Many ask what we have done for farmers. I have already explained it. I am a farmer. Having been born in an agriculturist family, I understand the difficulties and travails of farmers. To remove the distress of farmers without minding the cost, I wish to state, I have announced the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundaru link scheme and we are about to implement it. I declare that Hon'ble Amma's Government is people's Government; farmers' Government; a Government that fulfils the desires of the entire Tamil Nadu population and one that takes steps to cater to all sections of people.

As for Ramanathapuram District, the Corona virus spread has started to diminish gradually as the suggestions, announced by the Government to prevent the virus spread were implemented excellently. In the initial stage, we took very severe steps. We announced the lockdown; through that, the spread was prevented. That is why, the Corona virus spread is less in Tamil Nadu when compared to other states. No medicine has still been found for the virus. No one knows how this infection spreads. Such a dreaded disease is this. To prevent its spread, Government continues to put in hard efforts. As the District Administration acted as per the suggestions given by the Government on the basis of medical experts, this infection started waning in Ramanathapuram District. Severe measures are being taken to further thin down the number of affected persons and prevent the infection spread to restore normalcy. All over Tamil Nadu the virus spread is coming down.

At the national level, the virus spread is high in other States. Only in Tamil Nadu, it is diminishing. RT-PCR test is taken as medical experts have opined that the incidence of this infection can be precisely traced only through this method. It's Tamil Nadu that has precedence in conducting this test - 85,000 per day. The high number of testing in Tamil Nadu has brought down this infection gradually; the recovery is higher; mortality rate is less only in Tamil Nadu. We hope we will return to normalcy soon. Hundred per cent relaxation has been provided to agriculturists, micro, small, medium and big establishments. Hon'ble Amma's Government has permitted industries to work with 100 per cent labour force for smooth running of the units.

Paddy production this year has surpassed that in any previous year. This is due to the steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government. The record production is on account of the timely assistance extended by officials of the Agriculture Department to farmers. For this, I am bound to convey my appreciation to them. Due to the excellent performance of many other Departments like Industries, Animal Husbandry and Public Works Department, I wish to state that there is marked growth in all Departments compared to other States.

Nandri! Vanakkam! ■

News in Pictures

Development works in Ramanathapuram District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** declared open 844 completed scheme works valued at Rs.24.25 Crore and laid the foundation stones for 220 new scheme works to be executed at an estimate of Rs.70.55 Crore, at a function held at District Collectorate, Ramanathapuram on 22.09.2020.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** distributed Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries at a function held at District Collectorate, Ramanathapuram on 22.09.2020. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries Board Thiru. G. Baskaran, MLAs, Ramanathapuram District Collector Thiru. K. Veera Raghava Rao, I.A.S. and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

'Tamil Nadu Government stands foremost in protecting the well-being of aged people'

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on International Day of Older Persons *(English Translation)*

To safeguard the welfare of senior citizens and acknowledge their services, every year October 1 is celebrated as the International Day of Older Persons. On this special day, I extend my hearty greetings to all senior citizens.

About the greatness of wise people, Valluvar 'Perunthagai' says in his Kural that it is the rarest of rare good fortunes to cherish great persons and make them one's own

"Ariyavatru Lellam Aridhe Periyaaraip Penith Thamaraak Kolal"

All of us should give due respect to elderly people and take care of them considering it our foremost duty.

The Government of Tamil Nadu that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is effectively implementing many schemes to protect senior citizens and fulfil their basic needs for leading a respectable life. Under the Social Security Scheme, Rs.1,000 paid every month in the scheme of Old Age Pension to 13,53,736 senior citizens in 2019-2020. Through 46 integrated complexes, inclusive of special homes to promote love and affection between old people and orphaned children, 1,060 senior citizens and 1,106 children are being benefited. There are 21 old-age homes functioning with Tamil Nadu Government's subsidy and they solve the problem of accommodation for 723 aged people. Under the Integrated Programme for Senior Citizen (IPSrC), 59 old age homes, a round-the-clock treatment centre, 4 mobile medicare units and 2 physiotherapy clinics are functioning.

Free annual medical treatment is given to old people above 60 years of age in below poverty-line families; an allotment of Rs.1.65 Crore for the welfare of the inmates of old age homes has been made and in the first phase, 3,141 persons have been administered immunity injections for pneumonia.

There are 91 tribunals in Tamil Nadu to deal with cases under Maintenance and Welfare

of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, enacted in 2007 to give legal protection to old people. These Tribunals received 4,546 cases and 3,979 of them have been settled. To give suggestions and guidelines in respect of this law, council for senior citizens committees have been set up and are functioning, headed by the District Collector concerned at the District level and by the Chief Secretary to Government at the State level.

In this Corona virus period, 78,937 old age people have been given free food through the 1,242 community kitchens in the Districts; psychological counselling has been given to 4,942 old persons on distress calls and necessary medical facilities and essential commodities have been provided.

Appreciating Hon'ble Amma's Government for its best implementation of schemes for the welfare of old people, the Union Government honoured the Government of Tamil Nadu by presenting it the 'Vayoshreshtha Samman Award' for the year 2019.

Old people are experienced people having lived through several generations. It is the duty of all of us to protect their health, safety and welfare.

Let us honour these aged citizens!

Let us protect them! ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister thanks Hon'ble Prime Minister for including Tamil PG in criteria for PG Archaeology course

Text of the D.O.letter dated 09.10.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi.**

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the immediate response to my request to include Master's degree in Tamil as one of the minimum qualification criteria for the two-year Postgraduate Diploma in Archaeology course for the session 2020-2022 in Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, Noida.

I appreciate the prompt response and once again thank you for the immediate action in the matter." ■

Lockdown extended to October 31 with more relaxations; people urged to co-operate

Tamil Nadu, a model state in curbing Corona infections and ensuring highest recovery

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 29.09.2020 *(English Translation)*.

On the guidance of the Central Government for preventing Corona virus infections, a lockdown under the National Disaster Management Act, is in force in Tamil Nadu from 25.03.2020. Hon'ble Amma's Government has focused its attention on protecting the people from this virus infection and in providing relief to them. Due to this, the virus spread is under control in Tamil Nadu and the percentage of those recovering and returning home after treatment is the highest in the entire country. The mortality rate is also very low. This has prompted the Hon'ble Prime Minister to appreciate Tamil Nadu, in the recently held video conferencing consultative meeting, as a model State in conducting tests on a large scale for the detection of the Corona virus infection, controlling the virus and in providing treatment. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has remarked that other States should follow Tamil Nadu's example.

The lockdown order was extended in Tamil Nadu up to the end of 30.09.2020 on the basis of the review meetings I had held on various dates, the views of the 12 integrated committees consisting of senior IAS officers, views expressed at the District Collectors' meeting held through video conferencing on various dates, and those at the meeting conducted with Medical and Public Health experts. However, relaxation was granted for many works with some regulations, in consideration of people's livelihood and recovery of the economy.

The present lockdown order, enforced under the National Disaster Management Act for preventing the Corona virus infection which is due to expire on 30.09.2020, is being extended with the existing restrictions and relaxations till midnight of 31.10.2020. This decision has been taken on the basis of the review meetings I held on many days, views expressed at the District Collectors review meeting held on 29.09.2020, and those at the meeting conducted with Medical and Public Health experts and during consultations with senior Ministers. However, considering the necessity to retrieve the economy and the nature of the virus infection, permission given, particularly

for the following works, is continued with the already existing relaxations in all the areas of Tamil Nadu except in the containment zones:

1. Eateries and tea shops, observing the standard guideline procedures are permitted to function from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; parcel service allowed up to 10 p.m.

2. Film shootings are allowed with 100 persons provided the guideline procedures are followed. Visitors are not permitted at the film shoots.

3. 100 aircraft landings will be permitted in Chennai airport instead of the present 50. The present number of arrivals in airports at Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Thoothukudi and Salem will be continued.

4. Government and public sector training institutes following the standard guideline procedures are permitted to function.

5. Rural and urban weekly markets are permitted to function subject to observance of appropriate standard guideline procedures.

As per the Central Government's orders issued on 29.08.2020 and 08.09.2020, a G.O. was issued on 24.09.2020 permitting students appearing for the 10th and 12th standard public examinations, from 01.10.2020 to visit schools if they chose to, only for getting clarifications on their doubts from teachers. However, the operation of this G.O. is at present suspended, following a note of caution sounded at the District Collectors' review meeting held through video conferencing on its execution and in consideration of the views expressed by medical experts, the present status of the Corona virus and students' protection. This will be examined again and a decision on giving permission will be taken in due course.

GENERAL

- ✶ Ban on assembling of more than 5 persons in public places under Sec.144 of Cr.P.C. will continue throughout Tamil Nadu.

- ✶ Lockdown under the present procedures without any relaxation will be enforced totally in containment zones throughout Tamil Nadu.

Ban already in force for the following activities will continue till revised order is issued:

- ✶ Ban on the functioning of Schools, Colleges, Research Institutions and all Educational Institutions will continue.
- ✶ The ban on places where people gather in large numbers like cinema theatres, swimming pools, entertainment/ amusement parks, huge auditoria, zoos, museums and tourist centres will continue.
- ✶ Ban on international air service except those on routes permitted by the Central Government, will continue.

- ✶ Ban on travel by suburban trains will also continue.
- ✶ The ban on conducting religious meetings, social, political, entertainment, cultural events, educational festivals, other meetings and processions, will continue.

Though Hon'ble Amma's Government gave more relaxations in the month of September, the intensity of the virus infection has come down at the State level. Severe actions are being taken to reduce further the virus mortality rate. As face mask wearing has

been made compulsory while people go out and in public places, they should wear the mask without fail. This virus infection spread can be controlled only if people give total co-operation to Government through frequent hand wash with soap at home and work place, wearing mask in open places, observing social distancing without fail and avoiding unnecessary outings.

People should strictly follow the Government's guidelines in marriage events, places of worship, funerals and in events taking place in other families and avoid the virus infection.

Hence, I request people to co-operate with the Government's efforts. I wish to state that more relaxations will be permitted now and

then as per needs by continuously monitoring the virus infection's trend and by considering the co-operation of the people and the status of the infection.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates Twenty-five sub-stations

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020, inaugurated 25 sub-stations, totally costing Rs.353.12 Crore, on behalf of the Energy Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu through video conferencing.

It is imperative to set up power sub-stations at various points of the State to avoid loss of power in power transmission, to reduce maintenance cost and to meet the optimum requirement of power by providing continuous power at the right voltage. Taking this into consideration, the Government of Tamil Nadu, following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been installing new and upgraded power sub-stations in various parts of the State.

In this connection, a 110/11 KV sub-station at N.Mettupalayam in Nambiyur Division in Erode District, at a cost of Rs. 10.61 Crore;

A 230/110 KV sub-station at a cost of Rs. 177.94 Crore at Sankarapuram in Kallakurichi District;

Two 110/33KV sub-stations, one each at Asanur SIDCO in Kallakurichi District and at Odugathur in Vellore District (upgraded power station), at a total cost of Rs.31.61 Crore;

Three sub-stations of 110/22 KV capacity, one each at Minampalli in Salem District, Mungilpadi in Kallakurichi District and Ganapathipalayam (Punjai Kalamangam), in Erode District, at a total cost of Rs.34.75 Crore;

Two sub-stations of 110/11 KV capacity, one each at Sengathurai and Mahatma Gandhi Road in Coimbatore District, at a total cost of Rs.27.07 Crore;

Four sub-stations of 110/33 KV capacity each on rational basis at Poovalur in Tiruchirapalli District, Thiruninravur in Thiruvallur District, Valayamadevi (Muganthariyankuppam) in Cuddalore District and Kovilvenni in Thiruvarur District totally costing Rs. 12.94 Crore;

At Kallakudi in Tiruchirapalli District a 110/11 KV sub-station on ratio basis at a cost of Rs. 2.20 Crore;

And eleven 33/11 KV sub-stations, one each at Nermai Nagar in Chennai District, Anna Industrial park in Kittampalayam in Coimbatore District, Thimjepalli in Krishnagiri District, Kuttalam and Thittacheri in Nagapattinam District, Thiruvathevan and Kallaperambur in Thanjavur District, Melchengam, Velleri Mekkalur and Thachambadi in Tiruvannamalai District at a total cost of Rs.55.99 Crore.

Totally, 25 sub-stations at a total cost of Rs.353.12 Crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, during the tour in London in the year 2019, inspected Smart Grid Technology. Impressed by it, the Hon'ble Chief Minister wanted to replicate the technology in Tamil Nadu. With this motive, the Government of Tamil Nadu entered into an agreement with Enzen Global Solutions Private Ltd., of Bengaluru for introducing the Artificial Intelligence-based Active Grid Network Management System in the Wind Mills in the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the work order to the Bengaluru firm on 19.09.2020. This new technology will enable integration of the power produced in the wind mills with the State Grid besides streamlining the power variation in the State Grid. For this, the Government of Tamil Nadu has allotted Rs.6 Crore.

MoUs with Ramco Cements and Coursera for skilling youth

Skill Development Corporation's portal upgraded at a cost of Rs. 2 Crore

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020, inaugurated the upgraded portal of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) *https://www.tnskill.tn.gov.in* developed at a cost of Rs. 2 Crore, on behalf of the Labour and Employment Department.

In addition, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) signed Memorandum of Understanding with Ramco Cements to set up a Apex Skill Development Centre in construction and infrastructure and with Coursera of California for providing online education and training to 50,000 unemployed youth in Tamil Nadu.

TNSDC, apart from functioning as a nodal agency for all skill development units in the State, is also co-ordinating the industrial units, federation of industrial units, training institutes, departmental-wise skill units, assessment units and the various agencies of the Central and State Governments in skill development. To improve the activities of the Corporation, its present portal has been upgraded

at a cost of Rs. 2 Crore with Multilingual Integrated Skill Analysis and e-Governance System and the new portal *https://www.tnskill.tn.gov.in* was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

This new portal has a data base for virtual registration of beneficiaries, registration of training institutes, assessment agencies' record, e-certificates, maintenance of attendance record linked with Aadhaar cards, placement of trained candidates and supervision and online cash benefits. In addition, the portal has been upgraded to make use of the Integrated Unified Single Skill Registry for advanced training.

With the assistance of the Japanese International Co-operative Agency, as a part of the second stage of Tamil Nadu Investment Upgradation Scheme, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ramco Cements and TNSDC for setting up a Apex Skill Development Centre for Construction and Infrastructure at a cost of Rs.20 Crore.

Coursera is one of the internationally renowned online training institutes with headquarters in California. This institute in association with Universities, Colleges, Google, IBM and Government Institutions is providing certificate and graduate courses in Engineering, Machine Learning, Mathematics, Commerce, Computer Science, Digital Marketing, Medicine, Biology, Social Science and other disciplines. In addition, this institute is giving training to improve skills in over 80 nations all over the world.

In Tamil Nadu, to provide education and training to over 50,000 jobless youth in the

State, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Coursera and TNSDC. This MoU will enable unemployed men and women in the State get placement through online training through this institute.

Last year, at the 55th All-India Skill Competition, held in New Delhi in July, Tamil Nadu was selected as the Best State in Handicraft Training. The Commendation Certificate and the Rolling Trophy, issued by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship were shown to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Employment Dr.Nilofer Kafeel. The Hon'ble Chief Minister conveyed the congratulations.

The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship had announced that from this year, the Ministry would honour every year the best trainer of the Government Industrial Training Institutes with Kaushalacharya Award. This year, Thiru. P.Sukumar, Assistant Trainer in the Government Industrial Training Institute, Ambattur was given the Kaushalacharya Award in the non-Engineering Category and Thiru. M.Sevvel, Assistant Trainer in Government Industrial Training Institute, Madurai was given the Kaushalacharya Award in the Engineering Category. Both the award winners showed the Awards to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and received the greetings.

Prayer

Prayer is an unfailing means of cleansing the heart of passions. But it must be combined with the utmost humility.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Hon'ble Chief Minister declares open new building for Observation Home

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020, declared open a building for the Government Observation Home with staying rooms, technical training centre, workers room and dining room with kitchen, constructed at a cost of Rs.4.40 Crore in the Government's Juvenile Home Complex, in Kellys, on behalf of the Social Welfare and Nutritous Programme Department through video conferencing.

Following the Directive of the Juvenile Justice Board, juveniles considered to have gone against the law, staying in the Observation Home at Kellys in Chennai, functioning under the Social Protection Department, are provided food, clothes and other basic amenities. They are also provided with counselling by psychologists. Moreover, these students are given non-formal education and technical training.

In the Budget demand of the Social Welfare and Nutritous Programme Department for the year 2017-2018, the

Government announced that the Observation Home at Kellys in Chennai will be provided with a new building with infrastructure like staying rooms, kitchen with dining hall and technical training centre.

As per the announcement, the old dilapidated building at the Observation Home at Kellys in Chennai was demolished and a new building on a 1,554 sq.metre was constructed by the Government, at a cost of Rs. 4.40 Crore. This new Observation Home has infrastructure including 12 staying rooms where the girl children are accommodated based on their age and each room accommodates Five girl children with bathroom and toilet facilities. The Observation Home has technical training centre/multi- purpose room, Office Room and Doctor Room, RO water plant, CCTV cameras and sewerage treatment plant.

On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over appointment orders to 7 candidates, selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission for the Tamil Nadu Ministerial service, as a token of distributing orders for 92 selected candidates.

Hon'ble Chief Minister makes a pitch for All India Institute of Siddha in Tamil Nadu

Text of the D.O.letter dated 24.09.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi**.

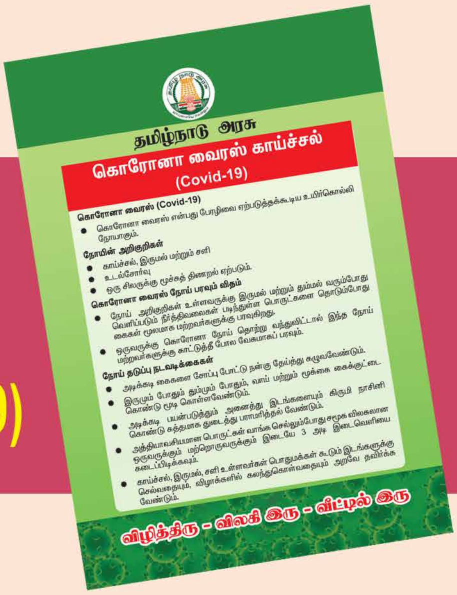
I am very happy to learn that the Government of India, under your leadership has been giving due importance to the Indian System of Medicine namely, Siddha, Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, as well as Homoeopathy. It is learnt that Government of India is planning to establish an All India Institute of Siddha. I would like to thank Government of India for this initiative as well as request you to establish the All India Institute of Siddha in Tamil Nadu, in the current financial year itself. It would be apt to establish this pioneer institute in Tamil Nadu, which is the place where the Siddha system of Medicine originated. I would like to inform you that the land required for this Institute, with good air, rail and road connectivity, has already been identified near Chennai city.

In this regard, I have already directed the officials concerned to provide all the details required by the Government of India. The Secretary to Government of India has already been addressed by the State Government and reply is awaited.

I am very keen that this All India Institute of Siddha is established in Tamil Nadu and expect a favourable reply.

‘Tamilarasu’

in field work to create awareness on preventing Corona infections (Covid-19)



‘Tamilarasu’ magazine, which has been functioning as a bridge between the people and Government for the past 50 years, is now playing a crucial role in the awareness campaign for the prevention of Corona virus infections in these times of the globally threatening pandemic.

Braving the pandemic, employees of the Department of Information and Public Relations continue to prepare and print pamphlets, folders and wall posters on a variety of topics, to create awareness among the public on preventing Corona virus infections and to distribute them to Municipal Corporations, Municipality, Town Panchayat and Panchayat offices, to offices of all Government Departments and to people at crowded places through its District Information and Public Relations offices.

Topics covered by the pamphlets include Corona infection symptoms, nature of the disease, treatment procedures, ways and means to prevent its spread, list of Government and private laboratories, Government and Private Hospitals that provide treatment, guidelines and instructions to be followed by affected persons, for those in home quarantine and those in isolation, for the aged people and for those with a long history of illness, medicine and food to be taken for the Corona virus infection and the medical appliances used for the treatment of the disease.

During the lockdown period also, employees of the ‘Tamilarasu’ printing press and Office continued to work for the welfare of the people. •

New scheme as a result of CM's visit to Dubai during overseas tour for investments

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off electric and solar powered autos, to be operated mostly by women

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** flagged off 13 new types of electric and solar power operated autos manufactured by M Auto Electric Mobility Private Limited, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 21.09.2020.

To attract overseas investments that would promote modern technology in Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Chief Minister undertook an official tour of England, the USA and Dubai last year and entered into Memoranda of Understanding with 41 companies with an investment estimate of Rs.8,835 Crore and job opportunities for 35,520 persons.

At an Investors Meet during this tour in Dubai, an MoU was entered into with M Auto Electric Mobility company for a Rs.100 Crore project with a job potential for 5,000 persons for converting petrol autos into environment friendly electric autos.

Following this, the company has now manufactured and introduced, through a Rs.140 Crore project, 13 types of new autos that will operate with electricity and solar energy. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu flagged them off on 21.09.2020.

Facilities like CCTV camera, GPS, Panic Button and TAB have been provided in these autos. It is to be noted that most of the drivers of M Autos are women.

Hon'ble Chief Minister shown Skoch award won by CMWSSB, Elets award won by TWAD Board

The Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P.Velumani met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi.K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020 and showed the Skoch Gold Award, won by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), for its implementation of the Dial Water 2.0 Scheme and the 'Elets' National Water Innovation Award 2020' for converting quarries into rainwater storage points.

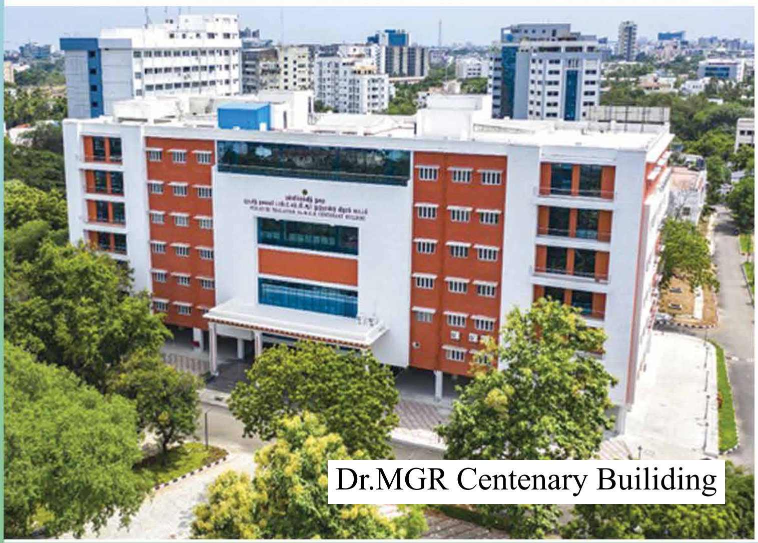
The Skoch organization handed over on 30.07.2020, the Skoch Gold Award to the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board for introducing the 'Dial for Water 2.0 Scheme'.

Elets Technomedia Pvt. Ltd., in association with the Union Ministry of Water Resources, organized on 28.08.2020 Elets National Innovation Summit 2020 in which the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board was selected for the National Water Innovation Award 2020 under the innovative Rain Water Conservation Category for converting the quarries in the State into rainwater storage points.

Landmark structure to be named 'Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Centenary Building'

Hon'ble Chief Minister unveils Rs.39.90 Crore building for School Education Directorate

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020, declared open through video conferencing on behalf of the School Education Department, the Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Centenary Building, at the Directorate of School Education Complex in Nungambakkam, Chennai constructed at a cost of Rs. 39.90 Crore.



Dr.MGR Centenary Builiding

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also inaugurated on the occasion, school buildings for Government Higher Secondary and high School in various Districts in the State, all built at a total cost of Rs. 9.70 Crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had made a statement in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 19.06.2017, that the Directorate of School Education has been functioning in the DPI Complex for over 100 years and the building has become very old. Many officials and employees of the Department from various Districts frequent the office and the various wings of the Department need additional space. The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that for this purpose, a new building of One lakh sq.ft. would be constructed to

commemorate the Centenary of the late Puratchi Thalaivar and named 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Centenary building'.

As per the announcement, the ground floor plus six-storey Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. Centenary building with a total area of 1,22,767 sq.ft. was constructed at a cost of Rs. 39.90 Crore and the same was declared open on 19.09.2020 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister through video conferencing.

This complex has vehicle parking on the Ground Floor, Directorate of Matriculation School Office, its Joint Directors' Rooms and Common Conference Hall in the First Floor, the office of the Commissioner of School Education, its Joint and Deputy Directors' Rooms in the Second Floor, Rooms for the Chairman and Members of the Teachers' Recruitment Board in the Third Floor, Office of the Teachers' Recruitment Board, Joint Directors and Deputy Directors Rooms, Members Rooms in the Fourth Floor, Education Research and Training Office in the Fifth Floor, Conference Hall, and Kalvi Television room, SIEMAT Conference Hall and Office Rooms in the Sixth Floor. Besides these, the building also has many facilities like Reception, toilets for differently abled persons, lifts and normal toilets.

In addition, under the NABARD Credit Scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open new Class Rooms, Laboratories, Drinking water, Toilets and Compound Walls facilities in 5 Higher Secondary Schools and High Schools at Gomangalam Pudur in Coimbatore District, Periyasevalai in Kallakurichi District, Periyakulam in Theni District, Irumbedu in Tiruvannamalai District and Panamalaipettai in Villupuram District.

Totally, buildings worth Rs. 49.60 Crore, were declared open on behalf of the School Education Department.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over on the occasion, appointment letters to 7 candidates for the post of Junior Assistants, selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, as a token of distributing Appointment Orders for 635 posts of Junior Assistants in the Ministerial Service of Directorate of School Education.

Hon'ble Chief Minister wants experts from Tamil Nadu in Centre's Culture committee

Text of the D.O. letter dated 23.09.2020
of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, addressed to
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Thiru. Narendra Modi.

"I understand that the Ministry of Culture, Government of India has recently constituted an expert committee for conducting a holistic study of the origin and evolution of Indian culture during the past 12 millennia and its interface with other cultures of the world. While it is a welcome move to deepen our understanding of our country's rich and varied cultural roots, the composition of the committee in itself is a matter of deep concern.

The said committee has no representative from any of the Southern States, especially from Tamil Nadu, which has a glorious past and is home to one of the oldest civilizations, viz., Dravidian civilization - a living and thriving culture in the South of India. The recent archaeological excavations in Keezhadi and other parts of Tamil Nadu reveal that the world-reputed Sangam era can now be dated back to as early as 6th century BCE. This places Tamil culture and language as one of the oldest surviving heritages in the world.

If you recall, Sir, around this time last year you visited Mahabalipuram, where you had observed the awe-inspiring timeless monuments and glorious legacy of Tamil heritage in full splendour. You will, therefore, agree with me that any chronicle of Indian history and culture would be grossly incomplete without giving its rightful place to Tamil culture and language.

Given this background, it is surprising that the Ministry of Culture has chosen to ignore experts from Tamil Nadu while setting up the said committee. I, therefore, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, request you to personally intervene and direct the Ministry of Culture to reconstitute the expert committee by inducting eminent scholars from Tamil Nadu.

May I request an early reply?"

Kunthukal village in Rameswaram Division gets Rs.70 Crore Fish Landing Centre

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat, Chennai on 19.09.2020, on behalf of the Fisheries Department, declared open a Fish Landing Centre, set up at a cost of Rs.70 Crore, at Kunthukal Village in Rameswaram Division in Ramanathapuram District through video conferencing. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also inaugurated buildings for the Fisheries Department, built at a cost of Rs.27.42 Crore, and buildings for the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.21 Crore.

The Government of Tamil Nadu in the Budget demand for the Fisheries Department for the year 2017-2018, announced that a new Fish Landing Centre would be set up in Kunthukal Village in Ramanathapuram District for the benefit of fishermen in coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu in Palk Bay for safe landing of boats and for avoiding congestion and other infrastructure facilities associated with coastal areas.

As per the announcement, the newly set up fish landing centre was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at Kunthukal in Ramanathapuram District,

set up at a cost of Rs. 70 Crore. In this new Fish Landing Centre, facilities have been provided for safe landing of boats to a length of 528 metres, a 100-metric tonne capacity refrigerated building, 400 deep sea fishing boats and 100 glass fibre boats. This new fish landing centre will benefit 6,050 fishermen.

A small fishing boat berthing centre and fish sales centre at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour in Chennai District at a cost of Rs.10.50 Crore; a Fish Landing Centre at a cost of Rs.4.40 Crore at Annamalaicheri Village in Ponneri Division in Thiruvallur District; renovated and upgraded national fish farm at a cost of Rs.3.07 Crore at Bhavanisagar in Sathyamangalam Division in Erode District; a pure line brood fish production and maintenance centre at a cost of Rs.1.50 Crore at Punkar Fish Farm in Bhavanisagar and at Mettur in Salem District at a cost of Rs. 3 Crore; Modernized Government Fish farm in Lalpettai in Kattumannarkovil and at Agaram Village in Kurinjipadi Division in Cuddalore District, at a cost of Rs.2.50 Crore and a compound wall at Nagapattinam Fishing Harbour in Nagapattinam District at a cost of Rs.2.45 Crore.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, in the Veterinary College and Research Institute at Orathanadu in Thanjavur District, an 'Ethno-veterinary herbal product research and development centre' at a cost of Rs.1.62 Crore and building for in-patient section for large animals with owners resting room at Rs.90 lakh; in Tirunelveli Veterinary College and Research Institute, a building for in-patient section of large animals with owners resting room at Rs.90 lakh; an additional hostel building for girl students in the campus of the College of Poultry Production and Management, in Hosur in Krishnagiri District at a cost of Rs.1.80 Crore.

Altogether, buildings constructed at a total cost of Rs.102.63 Crore for the Fisheries Department and the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Work begins for Thirupattur District Collectorate Master Plan Complex

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, on behalf of the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, laid the foundation stone for the Thirupattur District Collectorate Master Plan Complex, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 30.09.2020 through video conferencing. The complex will come up in Thirupattur town at an estimate of Rs.109.71 Crore.

In his Independence Day speech on 15.08.2019, Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that Vellore District would be trifurcated following demands from Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Legislature and the general Public for its division in view of its large size. A District would be created with Vellore as headquarters and two other new ones with Thirupattur and Ranipet as headquarters, Hon'ble Chief Minister said.

In keeping with the announcement, Thirupattur District was created as the 36th District of the State. The Master Plan Complex for the Collectorate office will come up in an area of 27,376 sq.metres with 7 floors and the ground floor at an estimate of Rs.109.71 Crore. In this new complex, office buildings for the Departments of Revenue, Public Works, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Treasury, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare and Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare are proposed to be constructed.

Building Model

Doukhobors:

the radical pacifists who inspired Tolstoy

(English Translation)

Who are the Doukhobors? They are a sect created by the cowherds and farmers who lived in the southern parts of Russia in the 17th century. Their doctrine is: one's heart is a temple; it should be kept pure; the spirit should be strong and modest; and there should be mutual love and compassion. They described themselves as 'spirit wrestlers' and lived in groups in small villages. Their main motto was that they should meet their needs by themselves. They were hard workers; experts in agriculture. They lived in their own world, never expecting any outside help - whether it was for clothes, production of appliances and wooden articles or construction of mud houses and community halls.

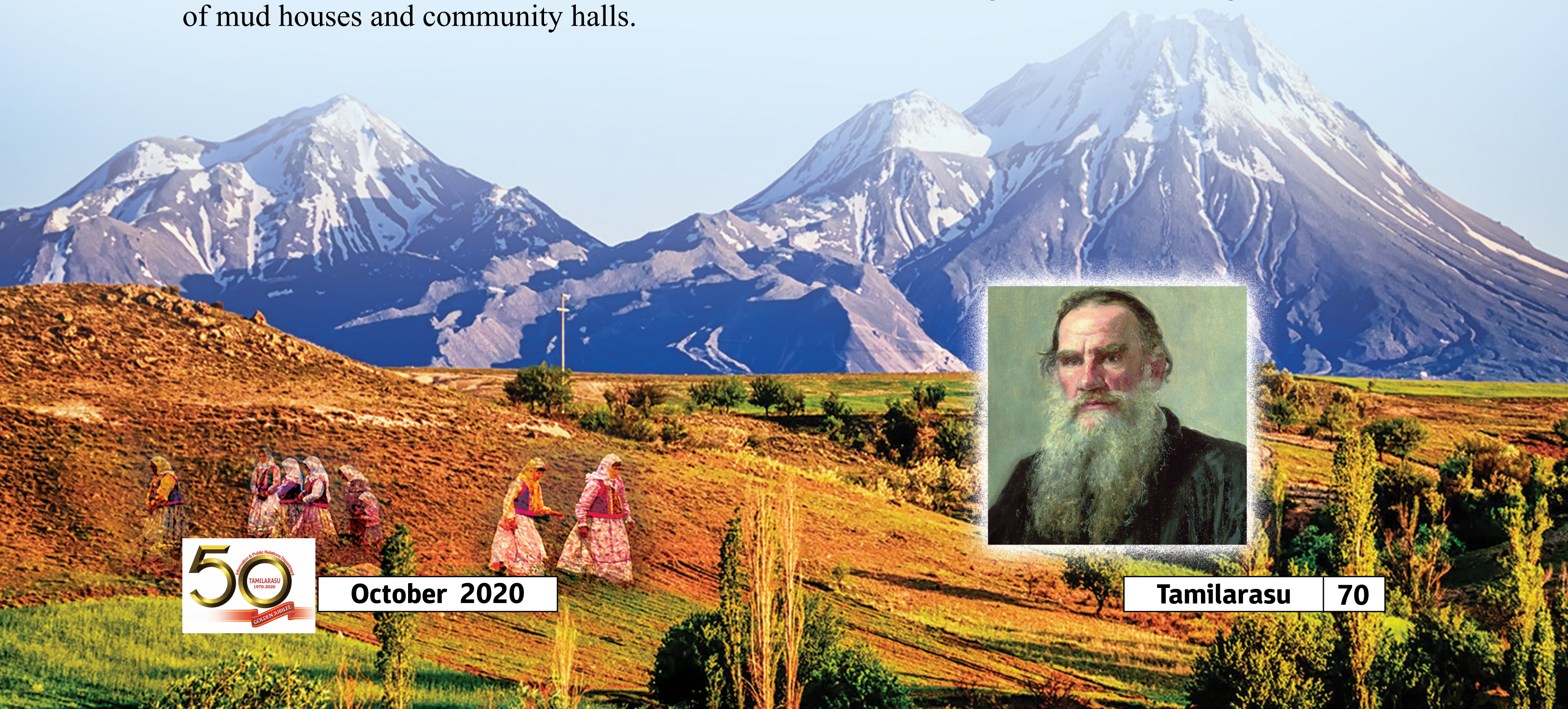
They practiced radical pacifism. If somebody attacked them, rather than retaliate they would receive the blows. However much violence was unleashed against them, they would not hit back.

Tobacco and liquor were taboos for them; food and accommodation would never be charged; selling bread was the worst form of sin.

They were unique in preparing jam and in safeguarding grains. Streets in their villages would be wide. They walked to their destinations. Their houses should be made only with mud. Work should be carried out manually, not through machines. Beyond basic needs one should not own clothes or have possessions. Money should never be considered as a thing of great value.

Animals and agricultural assets were considered common to all. Maintaining the aged was the responsibility of the community.

The Doukhobors set up their basic facilities without the Government's help. They considered marriage a sacrament and didn't believe in Government registration of marriages.



When the telephone came into vogue, they created phone facility for their villages by themselves.

They totally despised and eschewed service in the military as it involved killing people. Also, they never permitted implementation of tax collection or measurement of lands or census operations because of the Government's apathy towards them. They considered themselves as belonging to a separate sovereign State and lived peacefully. This infuriated the Russian Government which sent its Cossack Force to compel the Doukhobors to join the army. Those who defied were arrested and sent to prisons in Siberia. Still, their spiritual strength did not diminish.

A Doukhobor who received 300 whip lashes for a whole day told a Cossack soldier who came to continue the whiplash the next day. " You did not have sufficient rest. Enough food and fruits are in my larder. You can take it and then start your whipping". This is a Doukhobor's nature.

The world famous novelist Tolstoy learnt about the Doukhobors only then. He took up their case with the Government. He threw open his house as a place of refuge for the members of the Doukhobor sect who escaped from the eyes of the Government. He argued for justice for them. The Russian Government said it would agree if the Doukhobor sect, comprising 40,000 people, left Russia en masse. It laid a condition that they should never return to Russia.

The Canadian Government declared it would take 7,500 Doukhobors in the first phase. To meet their monetary needs for travel, Tolstoy wrote the 'Resurrection' novel. He was 78 years old then. He wrote for 10 hours a day. Waking up in the middle of the night, he used to write with the help of a candle; he would mutter in sleep about the novel and was even gripped with the fear that he might die without completing the novel. The publishers of the novel and those who helped the publishers were all banished from the country. He continued to help the emigrating Doukhobors with the 17,000 roubles he could collect through his book sales, royalty and own earnings. This is the only novel that an author has written for the sake of saving the people whom he love.

Even today, the descendants of Doukhobors live with the noble principles of non-violence, peace, vegetarianism, self-reliance, simplicity and good actions and good thoughts. This is the path of peace they show.

-From the book, Enadharumai Tolstoy

Karnataka Government requested to fill up Tamil teacher vacancies

Text of the D.O. letter dated 08.10.2020 of
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
addressed to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka
Thiru. B.S. Yediyurappa.

Karnataka Government has started many Tamil Schools in various Districts over the years to enable Tamil students to study in their mother tongue. Karnataka Government has granted approval as well as provided grants to the private Tamil Schools.

In this connection, we have received a representation from the Karnataka Tamil School and College Teachers Association, indicating that there are many vacancies of Tamil teachers in Government and Government Aided Schools and that the State Government has also not given approval for opening new private Tamil Schools. I enclose a copy of the representation for your kind perusal.

Tamilians have been contributing significantly to the all-round economic development of the State of Karnataka. In particular, Tamilians have made immense contribution in developing Kolar Gold Mines, Hutti Gold Mines, Sandur Manganese Mines, Coffee Estates in Chikmagalur, Mangalore etc. They have also been playing a major role in construction sectors and agriculture sector in the State of Karnataka.

Hence, I request you to kindly take immediate action to protect the interests of Tamil speaking people by:

i. Filling up of the vacancies of Tamil teachers in Government and Government Aided Schools in Karnataka.

ii. Reopening of such Schools, closed recently.

iii. Granting recognition / permission to open new Private Schools with Tamil as a medium of instruction.

iv. Restoration of Tamil Schools, which have been converted into other language Schools.

'Tamil Nadu recovering speedily on economic front'

Hon'ble Chief Minister surveys State's effective response to COVID-19 challenge, gears up machinery for monsoon challenges

Excerpts from the speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** at the review meeting with all District Collectors on the serial safety measures being taken by various Departments to prevent the spread of the Corona virus, held through video conferencing at the Secretariat, Chennai on 29.09.2020 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to take many special measures for controlling the COVID-19 virus infection. That is why the Hon'ble Prime Minister has mentioned that Tamil Nadu is a model for other States. I extend my heart-felt gratitude to all the Hon'ble Ministers and officials who have earned this appreciation for Tamil Nadu through their tireless work on the ground. To retain this good name and to banish Corona from Tamil Nadu, all of us should continue to work hard; implement our measures with greater vigour.

❖ Fourteen State Disaster Management Authority meetings have been held under my leadership; 10 review meetings with all District Collectors have been held through video conferencing.

- The Chief Secretary to Government has held 12 review meetings with District Collectors through video conferencing.
- We are enforcing the lockdown with great care and safety in the interest of Tamil Nadu people by continuously watching the status of the virus infection. We are also providing necessary relaxations.
- So far, Hon'ble Amma's Government has spent Rs.7,323 Crore for the control and treatment of COVID-19 infection; of this, medical expenditure is Rs.1,983 Crore and that on relief is Rs.5,340 Crore.
- We have conducted fever camps in all Districts, identified persons with fever and with virus infection symptoms through door-to-door visits and have undertaken measures like RT-PCR tests, quarantining and treatment in an excellent way.
- At present, 1,40,091 beds are ready in COVID-19 hospitals and COVID-19 special centres to receive patients at the state level; this includes 27,057 beds with oxygen facility and 6,106 beds with Intensive Care Unit facility (ICU); there are 6,492 ventilators ready for use.
- Only our State have the highest number of testing laboratories – 184; on behalf of Government 66 labs, in the private sector-118. RT-PCR test has been performed on 71,81,125 persons so far. Tamil Nadu continues to be in the forefront in COVID-19 laboratory testing. Presently, about 85,000 RT – PCR samples are tested every day.
- To provide special treatment for COVID-19 infection, 15,000 medical staff have been appointed additionally. About 2,751 doctors, 6,893 nurses and other medical personnel have been appointed.
- Very essential and life saving medicines like Tocilizumab - 400 mg, Remdesvir – 100 mg and Enoxaparin-40 mg have been procured and sent to all Government hospitals. Medicines, testing tools, N95 face masks, PPE Kits, three-fold face masks, CT Scan, X-ray are continued to be procured to the required level.
- Zinc and Vitamin tablets are given to all field workers and residents in containment zones.
- The indigenous system of treatment is also given in Tamil Nadu to patients in an excellent way. 'Kabasura' kudineer, a Siddha medicine is distributed to most of the people to improve their immunity.
- I wish to particularly mention that on account of these actions, Tamil Nadu continues to be a state with more than 90.50 per cent recovery rate after treatment and with the lowest mortality rate with 1.60 per cent.

- Treatment for Corona virus in private hospitals has been arranged for the beneficiaries of the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme and for the members of the Employees State Insurance Scheme.
- Through creation of awareness continuously, Tamil Nadu has ensured wearing of face mask and observance of social distancing in public places and proper washing of hands.
- District Collectors should create the awareness in people that symptoms of fever, sneezing, dry cough, breathlessness, fatigue, headache and loss of the faculties of taste and smell warrant rushing to hospital within 24 hours. During COVID-19 RT-PCR testing, priority should be given to the samples of senior citizens and persons with chronic diseases and results should be announced quickly.
- District Collectors should keenly watch whether the standard procedures for treatment of COVID-19 infection are followed in Government and private hospitals.
- COVID-19 care centres are functioning in an excellent manner. For these centres to provide better services to people, District Collectors should now and then oversee food, drinking water and toilet facilities in them.
- Though the mortality rate in Tamil Nadu is less, District Collectors should consult with health officials and intensify activities so as to reduce it further.
- Re-usable face masks are distributed at no cost at Fair Price Shops to the downtrodden people residing in Corporation, Municipal and Town Panchayat areas from August 5th. So far, 46 lakh such masks have been distributed to the poor and marginalized people in Chennai; in other Districts, so far 2.51 Crore face masks have been distributed.
- As per the orders issued by the Central Government on 29.08.2020 and 08.09.2020, a Government order has been issued on 24.09.2020, permitting students appearing for the 10th and 12th standard public examinations to visit their schools on 01.10.2020, if they so wish, to get clarification from teachers on their doubts.
- For the safety of students, a decision on permitting the operation of the G.O. issued earlier, sanctioning students to visit their schools on their own volition to get their doubts cleared by teachers, will be taken on the basis of the views expressed at the District Collectors meeting and medical experts meeting slated to be held today.

- Knowing that the economic condition of the poor, micro-level craftsmen and traders will be affected due to the enforcement of the first lockdown that exempted only agriculture, Hon'ble Amma's Government, to protect them, implemented all over Tamil Nadu with great care, many relief measures like distribution of food articles at no cost and cash relief. Later, gradual relaxations have started.
- Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking many steps to further the industrial growth in Tamil Nadu. Even during the Corona period, 42 Memoranda of Understanding for starting new industries with an investment of Rs.31,464 Crore and employment opportunity for 69,712 persons, were signed.
- A private establishment's survey has stated that Tamil Nadu has come up as the foremost State in attracting new investments in the quarter April to June 2020 and in creating thus job opportunities on account of these activities.
- A Corona special financial assistance scheme is being implemented with a fund of Rs.300 Crore under the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) for developing rural industries and increasing income. So far, 1,63,000 persons have benefited.
- In the present COVID-19 time, Rs.8,557 Crore bank loan assistance has been provided so far to 2,37,090 Self Help Groups. Of this, Rs.954.80 Crore has gone to 87,327 Self Help Groups, whose members' livelihood has been affected during the Corona infection period.
- To set right the lockdown damages suffered by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, a COVID-19 Relief and Development scheme is being implemented with a fund of Rs.200 Crore.
- I conducted and presided over bankers' meetings at District and State levels and advised banks to provide instant loans to industrial establishments. On account of this, Tamil Nadu was sanctioned the highest loan amount – Rs.8,585 Crore – in the Central Government's Loan Scheme and it captured the first place at the national level.
- Review reports say Hon'ble Amma Government's excellent steps have largely taken Government welfare schemes to people and thus saved them from economic distress; brought down unemployment by one sixth in just two months and increased the per capita income in a gradual manner; Tamil Nadu is seen to be speedily recovering from the damages caused to the State's economy by the prevalence of Corona environment.

- In the State, monsoon is about to set in. The District Administration should be prepared to handle skillfully the challenges of the monsoon by bestowing greater attention to matters like urban/rural drinking water and road facilities and solid waste management even before the monsoon breaks out. Our advanced planning in dredging and deepening water bodies, repairing channels etc., has resulted in kuruvai cultivation going up this year to an unprecedented level of 4.12 lakh acres.

- In the last 4 years, 6,278 water bodies were taken up for restoration through the 'kudimaramathu' scheme at a cost of Rs.1,433 Crore and most of the works have been completed. District Collectors have stated that there are enough stocks of input. Hence, I request all of you to extend required assistance to farmers and increase agriculture production this year to a historic level.

- As I have already stated at the review meeting in August, reservoir infrastructure, canals, sluices of dams and bunds should be supervised and precautionary measures taken even before the monsoon sets in.

- As a historic achievement, Hon'ble Amma's Government got the Central Government's approval for starting 11 new Government medical colleges and has commenced construction works for them in a very short time. As I have advised in the last meeting, District Collectors should make field inspection and expedite the work further.

- Likewise, I wish to mention that 6 new Districts have been created in Tamil Nadu and they have started functioning. Along with this, public transport has been permitted to ply in deference to people's demand and relaxations have been sanctioned for travel throughout Tamil Nadu through public transport. The relaxations have helped people to travel to all parts of Tamil Nadu. This has greatly facilitated people going for work /hospitals. Relaxations have been granted for the operation of many trains also; air travel has also been permitted. As such, I wish to mention at this hour that the Government is taking comprehensive action to restore normalcy step by step by gradually reducing the restrictions imposed earlier and sanctioning relaxations.

- I wish to convey at this hour my heart-felt gratitude to the general public for their continued co-operation to the Government's COVID-19 prevention works and to all Government officers and employees for their ardent work.

- I affectionately request the people to continue their full co-operation to the Government's COVID-19 preventive, precautionary steps, taken in the interest of the people.

அண்ணலைப் பற்றி அண்ணா

உலக உத்தமர் காந்தியடிகளின் பிறந்த நாள், நாடெங்கும் நன்னாளாகக் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது, அவரவர் தத்தமக்கு விருப்பமான முறையில் காந்தியடிகளுக்குத் தமது அன்பினைக் காணிக்கையாக்கி அளிக்கின்றனர்.

அவருடைய திருவுருவப் படத்திற்கு மாலைகளிட்டும்—அவர் புகழ் பற்றிய பாடல்களை இசைத்தும்—பஜனை நடாத்தியும், நூற்புத் தொண்டாற்றியும், சேரிகளைத் திருத்தும் பணிபுரிந்தும் இந்நாளைக் கொண்டாடுகின்றனர்

அவர் ஓர் தூயவர். நமது மார்க்கத்தின் மாசு துடைத்திட வந்த மகான்—என்பாரும்,

அவர் ஓர் விடுதலை வீரர், நமது நாட்டு அடிமைத் தளைகளை உடைத்தெறிந்த அஞ்சா நெஞ்சினர் என்பாரும்;

அவர் ஓர் சமதர்மவாதி, ஏழைபங்காளர், ஏழைகள் புது வாழ்வு பெற வழிவகுத்தவர் என்பாரும்;

அவர் கிராம ராஜ்யம் அமைத்திட முனைந்தவர், என்பாரும், இதுபோல, அவரிடம் அவரவர் கண்டவற்றினைக் கொண்டு அளவிட்டு வியந்து பாராட்டுவோர் பல்வேறு வகையினர் உளர். இவர்களில் எவருடைய பார்வையில் முழு காந்தி அடிகள் தெரிகிறார் என்பது, காலமெல்லாம் ஆராய்ந்தறிந்து கொள்ள வேண்டிய ஒரு பிரச்சினையாகும். காரணம், ஒரு மனிதர் என்ற முறையிலே மட்டும் கவனிக்க வேண்டியவர் அல்லர்; அவர் காலத்தின் சின்னம், ஓர் எழுச்சியின் அடையாளம், ஒரு மறுமலர்ச்சியின் உருவகம்.

அவர் எல்லாத்துறைகளிலும் தமது முத்திரையைப் பொறித்துச் சென்றவர்; எல்லாத் துறையினரும், எமக்காகவே காந்தி அடிகள் வாழ்ந்தார், எமக்காகவே பணிபுரிந்தார் என்று சொந்தம் கொள்ளத்தக்க முறையிலே அவருடைய வாழ்க்கையும், தொண்டும் அமைந்திருந்தன.

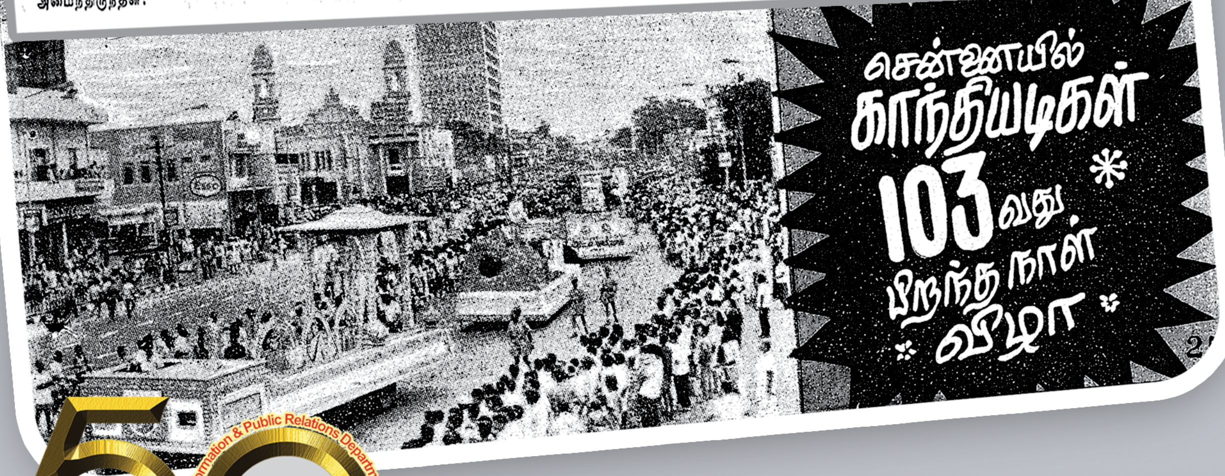
இன்று, அவருடைய பிறந்தநாள், எல்லாத் துறைகளிலே உள்ளவர்களாலும் கொண்டாடப்படுவதற்கான காரணம் இதுவே. அவர் ஒரு நாட்டின் காலம்! ஒரே ஒரு துறைக்கு அல்ல! எல்லாத் துறைகளுக்கும் ஒரு திருப்பத்தை, ஒரு புதிய பொலிவை, வலிவைக் கொடுத்தவர்.

ஒரு நாட்டின் முன்னேற்றம் ஏதோ ஒரு துறையிலே மட்டும் பெறப்படுகிற வெற்றியைப் பொறுத்தது அன்று. எல்லாத் துறைகளிலும் வெற்றி காணவேண்டும். அவைகளின் ஒட்டு மொத்தத்தைக் கொண்டே அந்நாடு முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்திருக்கிறதா என்ற கணக்குப் பார்க்கவேண்டும்.

ஒரு நாட்டின் வரலாற்றிலே அவ்விதமான ஒரு கணக்கு அடிக்கடி கிடைக்காது; ஒரு நூற்றாண்டுக்கு ஒரு முறை கிடைக்கும் என்றும் கூறிவிட முடியாது. அந்தக் கணக்கு இந் நாட்டுக்குக் காந்தியடிகளின் வடிவத்திலே கிடைத்தது. எனவேதான் காந்தியடிகளின் பிறந்த நாள் ஒரு மாபெரும் தலைவரின் பிறந்த நாளாகமட்டுமின்றி, ஒரு நாட்டுக்குக் கிடைத்த நற்காலம், என்ற முறையிலே சிறப்புப் பெறுகிறது.

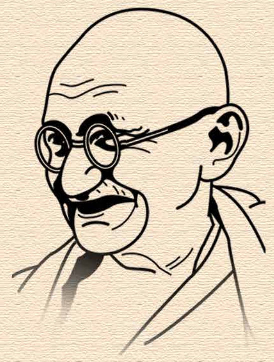
அந்த—அரை ஆடை மனிதர் கோடானுகோடி மக்களுக்குமானமுள்ள வாழ்வு பெற்றுத் தந்ததைவிட ''அற்புதம்'' வேறுஎன்ன இருக்க முடியும்?

இன்று நடத்திடும் திருநாளின் மாண்பு, நாளையும் மறுநாளும், பிற நாட்களிலும் நமது எண்ணத்திலும் செயலிலும் ஒளிவிடவேண்டும். அதற்கே இந்நாள்! அவர் புகழ் பாடி மகிழ்ந்திட மட்டுமல்ல—அவர் வழி நடந்திட, அவர் காண விரும்பியதைக் கண்டிட, அவர் தந்து சென்றதை உருக்குலைக்காதிருந்திட, அவர் ஊட்டிய உணர்ச்சிகளை உயிருள்ளவை யாக்கிட ! மாலையின் மாண்பு மணத்தில்! விளக்கின் பயன் ஒளியில்! விழாக்களின் பலன் நமது செயலிலே இழைந்திடும் மாண்பிலே இருக்கிறது!



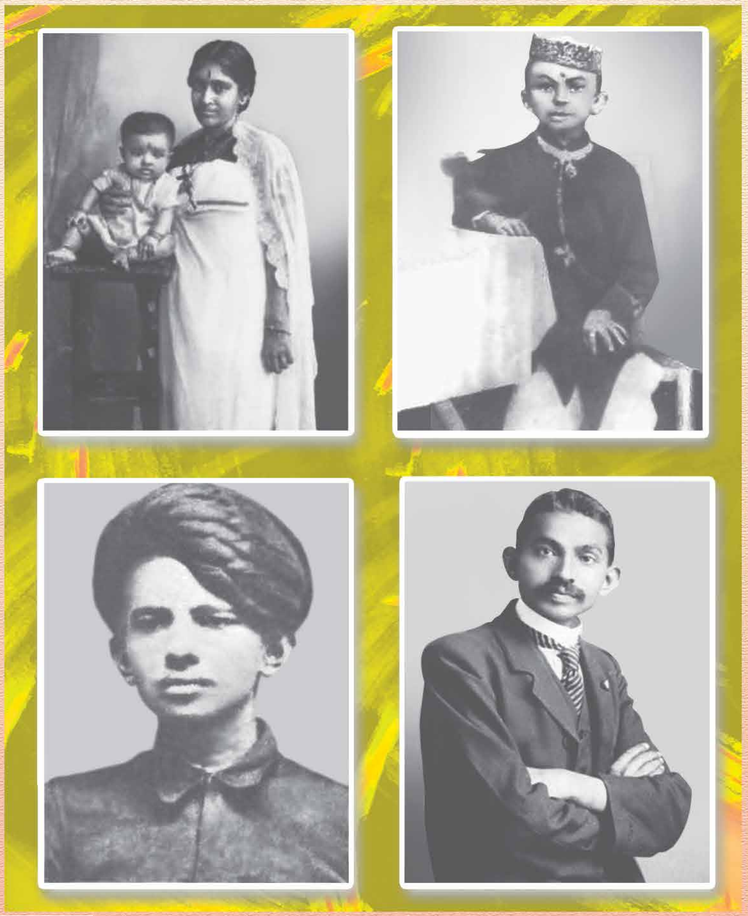
2

When Gandhiji was just Mohandas



Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, born at Porbandar on October 2, 1869, was the fourth and last child of his father's fourth and last marriage. His schooling began in the year 1876 at Porbandar which was ruled by an Indian prince. It was a rather isolated town, almost untouched by western influence.

The peninsula Kathiawar (now known as Saurashtra) was then a conglomeration of princely States, big and small, of which Porbandar was one. The little town of Porbandar, with the population of about 15,000, was the capital of the State. It had three private primary schools and one Government primary school, subsequently known as Porbandar Taluka School. The school started by the Government were maintained by Education Fund and supervised by an officer of the Bombay Education Department. The name of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi could not be traced in any of the relevant records such as annual examination results files and some files of correspondence which were available at Porbandar Taluka School on December 12, 1954. Shri. Jivram Mahadev, who was the headmaster of Taluka school in 1875, refers in official correspondence No.116 dated March 16, 1875, to three private schools in Porbandar namely Adhyaru School, Laxman Bava School and Khoja School. It is not certain to which of these schools the boy Mohandas was sent.



The boy Mohandas was sent to some sort of primary school when he was six and he studied there in the infant class for about a year. This schooling must have been supplemented by 'home education'. The family was cultured; there were books in the house, dealing chiefly with religion and mythology. Mohandas' mother Putlibhai was deeply religious; the outstanding impression she left on his mind was that of saintliness. His father was truthful, generous and incorruptible. The loving care of his revered mother was, no doubt, the most important part of the early education of the boy.

Besides his schooling in the infant class, Mohandas seems to have been coached

privately by Shri. Anandji Tulsi Adhyaru who was the tutor to the princess of Porbandar. This Adhyaru was perhaps the person from whom Mohan and his elder brother Karamdas learnt the 'Ram Raksha', at the instance of their cousin Shri. Amritlal Tulsidas.

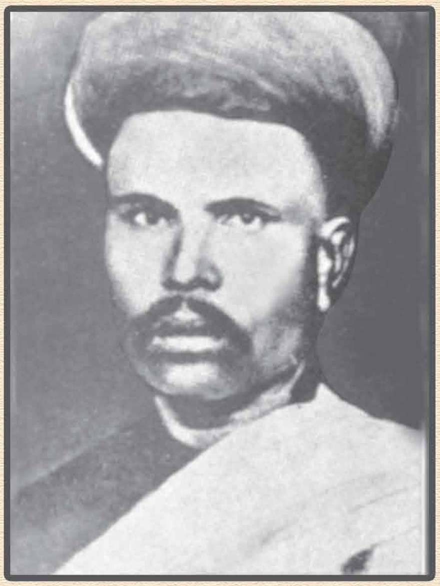
After this one-year schooling at Porbandar, Mohandas was admitted into the Branch School at Rajkot, where his father was the Chief Karbhari (Chief Administrator). On his appointment in November 1874 as Chief Karbhari, Karamchand Gandhi came to Rajkot with his elder son, Lakshmi Das, who was thirteen years old. The rest of the family, including the seven year old Mohandas, shifted to Rajkot only towards the end of 1876. Karamchand Gandhi had been given a spacious residence near Darbargadh. Near the residence was a building, now it ruins, where a Gujarati school, known as Branch School, used to be housed. The school was subsequently shifted and is now known as Pratap Kunvarma School or Shala No.5. In the absence of any records one can only assume that Mohandas went to the Branch School for two years 1877 and 1878 and did his Gujarati standard 1st and 2nd there. From here he was transferred to the main (City) Taluka School, Rajkot, where he was admitted to Gujarati Standard III on January 2, 1879. In 1878, while Mohandas was in Gujarati Standard II at the Branch School. Karsandas, his elder brother, was in Gujarati Standard IV at the Taluka School Rajkot.

The Taluka School, Rajkot was established in 1837 and is one of the oldest primary schools of the region Mohandas attended this school from January 21, 1879 to October 2, 1880 during which period he studied Gujarati standards III and IV. Each of these standards at The Taluka School in Rajkot had two divisions and Mohandas was in the first division in both the years.

Attendance and Progress

Column No.2 in the result sheet of standard III reveals that his attendance during the year 1879 was only 110 days out of your total of 238. Making allowances for the fact that Mohandas was admitted late by about two months, his absence for about 70 days cannot be easily accounted for. There is no evidence that Mohandas was ill during 1879 and he had been in 1878. It would appear that the boy Mohandas was not quite serious about attending school, possibly influenced by the example of two elder brothers (Lakshmidas and Karsandas) and also by some of his classmates. It is true that there is some improvement in standard IV, but even there, there is an absence of 48 days in a year.

Mohandas passed under all the four heads in his annual examination of standards III and IV. In this first year he scored 82.5 marks out of 200 which makes 41.25% and in the second, 214 out of 400 or 53.50%. The annual examination result sheets of standards III and IV show that in standard III the highest percentage of marks secured by the pupil bearing the Serial No.1 was 76.5% while the lowest was 37.6 % secured by Serial No.68. In between these two, comes Mohandas (Serial No.6) with the percentage of 41.25. In standard IV, however, the percentage of marks secured by Mohandas (Serial No. 18) was 53.5, the highest percentage being 65.75 and the lowest 41.86.



Maneklal Nagardas Shah who was master (1877-1881) at Taluka School, Rajkot, where mohandass studied for about two years in Gujarati Standards III and IV during the years 1879 and 1880

The number of pupils taking the annual examination of standard II (division A and B combined) was 67. Out of these, 48 passed in all the four heads. Among them, Mohandas, in order of merit, stood 47th in divisions A and

Manshanker Ganeshji Anjaria a neighbour and a class mate of Mohandas at the Kattyawar High school, Rajkot. At the time seeing Mohandas off an board the steamer S.S clyde, he gave Mohandass a silver chain.

B combined. Thus he was very near the bottom in standard III. There is, however, a distinct improvement in his performance at the annual examination of standard IV in which, out of a total of 54 pupils (of division A and B combined), 32 passed in all the heads and Mohandas stood 21st.

Thus during the five-year period in primary schools, Mohandas was on the whole a mediocre student. Though not very regular in his attendance, Mohandas, as reported by his elder sister Raliatben, was punctual. She recalls that rather than be late he would eat the food of previous day if breakfast was not ready. It may also be noted that he preferred walking to school to going by carriage.

Teachers

Mohandas was at the City Taluka School, Rajkot, from January 21, 1879 to October 2, 1880. His class teacher in standard III was Shri. Kalidas Naranji and standard IV was Shri. Chattrabhuj Bapuji. The Head Master of the school was Shri. Maneklal Nagardas Shah, a 'third year trained' teacher with energy and ambition. Primary schools then could not, and even now cannot, afford the luxury of specialised subject teachers. The class teacher is expected to teach all the subjects laid down in the syllabus for a particular standard. Mohandas was in division A of Standard III. Shri. Kalidas Naranji, the class teacher of this division, had passed a qualifying examination then known as Entrance Examination. In 1879, when Mohandas was studying under him. Shri. Kalidas Naranji drew a monthly pay of eight rupees. Shri. Chattrabhuj Bapuj, the class teacher of Mohandas in standard IV (division A) was barely 23 years old. He drew a monthly pay of fifteen rupees and he had passed the third year examination of P.T training College, Ahmedabad, in 1879. In his autobiography, Gandhi does not mention by name his teachers in primary schools. He only says: "There (in Rajkot) I was put into a primary school and I can well recollect those days, including the names and other particulars of teachers who taught me."

Classmates

During the period of his primary schooling, Mohandas was timid. Books and lessons were his sole companions. After school, he used to run back home as he could not bear to talk to anybody. Among his classmates during the period (from January 21, 1879 to October 2, 1880) were Tribhuvan Purushottam Bhatt, Manshankar Ganeshji Anjaria & Amritlal Vardhaman Modi. These three boys lived in the neighbourhood of Mohandas's house near Darbargadh. Shri. Tribhuvan Bhatt subsequently held the post of Chief Karbhari of Rajkot State. The Spacious house, Chief Karbhari's residence in which Mohandas had lived during the period of his primary schooling, is at present occupied by the family of the late Tribhuvan Bhatt. When Mohandas sailed for England in 1886, his old classmate Shri. Manshanker Anjaria gave him a silver chain on September 4, 1888, as he saw him off on board the S.S Clyde. At the time of Annual Examination of standard III, Mohandas and these three classmates were 10, 11, 12 and 8 years respectively. Of these four, Tribhuvan Bhatt has scored the highest percentage (71.5) and Mohandas the lowest (41.25). At the annual examination of standard IV, the performance of Mohandas showed a distinct improvement over the previous year. Even so, Tribhuvan Bhatt secured 12% more marks than Mohandas.

Source :
'Mahatma Gandhi as student'

from **1972** August **'Tamilarasu'** Issue..

களத்தில் உயிர் நீத்த கன்னர் ஆறுமுகம்

Tamilarasu

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Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit** and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** paid floral tributes to the portrait of the Mahatma Gandhi kept near his statue on Kamarajar Salai in Chennai, on the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma on 02.10.2020.

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